Funds still being sought for AMP erosion study. » PAGE 2

Man allegedly points handgun at two other men. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

17 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 243

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$850K worth of 'ice' seized

DENNIS B. CHAN

From left, Customs deputy director Maj. Greg Sablan, Customs director Jose Mafnas, and Customs port manager Lt. Marvin Sablan hold up a photo of their most recent "ice" bust, weighing 4.9 lbs and worth an estimated $850,000 in street value.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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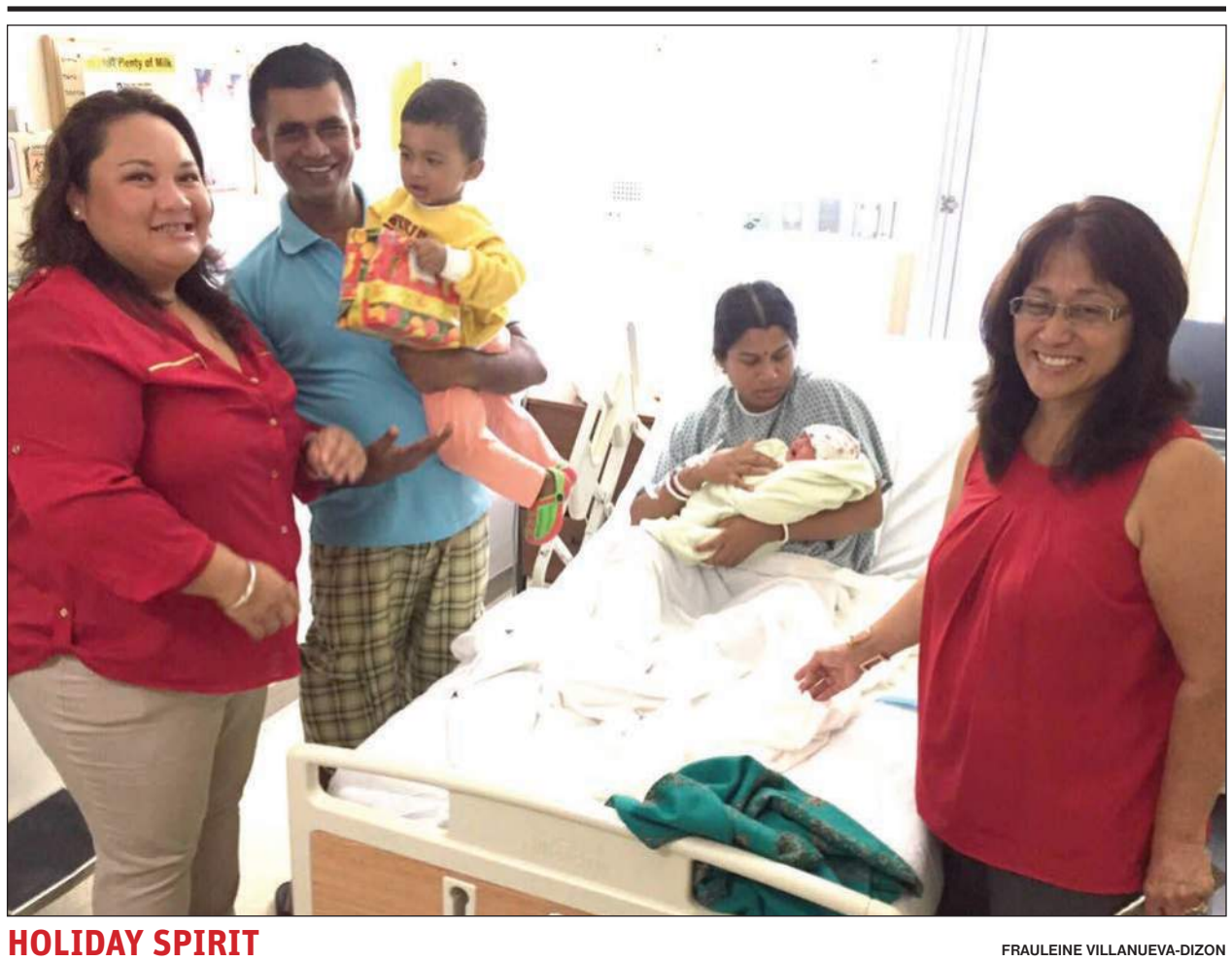
REPORTER

On Dec. 2, during a routine inspection at the Port of Saipan, a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, was selected by the CNMI Divisions of Customs for 100 percent inspection. The container had several consignees and was brought in by Sunleader, a cargo consolidating company. One of the consignees had brought in nine 5-gallon paint containers, which were inspected by Customs officers. One con-

See ICE on Page 4



HOLIDAY SPIRIT

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

A family at the Commonwealth Health Center receives gifts for their children from the DPH-Maternal and Child Health Bureau as part of a gift-giving project this Christmas. About 200 kids were given gifts to bring them cheer this holiday season.

Casino amendments now law

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A bill to amend the casino law became law on Friday to finally provide a funding mechanism for Saipan casino regulators but it did not leave the desk of acting governor Ralph DLG Torres without some vetoes. The vetoes fall

See LAW on Page 4

Tinian casino applies to reopen on Dec. 15

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Tinian casino has applied to reopen on Dec. 15 but this application is pending based on several wage, fee, and contract-related conditions, according to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

"It's not a solid date until we've received confirmation that they have met all the conditions that the commission has imposed on their reopening," said commission executive director Lucy

See TINIAN on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

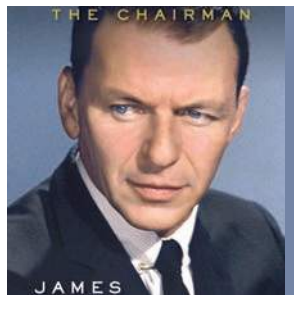
The holiday spirit is alive and well in the CNMI with "Christmas in the Marianas."

» PAGE 9

ASIA

151 young couples tie the knot at a mass wedding hosted by an Indian businessman.

» PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

10 reasons why Frank Sinatra's presence is still felt today in popular culture.

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Local

Funds still being sought for AMP erosion study

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

Last year, the National Parks Service, which runs the American Memorial Park, requested for urgent funding for a modeling study for the Micro Beach area after noting the alarming rate of erosion over the past decade.

To date, sand is being swept from the coast to Smiling Cove with the cove's western entrance now slowly being closed up by this sand pile.

Beach and shoreline erosion is gobbling up large tracts of Micro Beach, with the possibility that most of the area's pavilions and cemented sidewalks will fall victim to this natural phenomenon.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Jim Richardson, superintendent for both the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam and American Memorial Park, said the beach and shoreline erosion has already resulted in many trees falling and cemented sidewalks being destroyed. If the pattern continues, many of the Micro Beach pavilions would follow, he said.

It is anticipated that the American Memorial Park will lose half of its land in probably 30 to 50 years due to the constant erosion.

Another proposal for funding is being made by the National Park Service but Richardson said the study would not anticipate or model human mitigation to stop the erosion. Rather, it would model past human mitigation that was unsuccessful and is now part of what is causing the erosion.

"There are long histories of this kind of erosion but human mitigation almost never is a good answer," Richardson said. "Nature is in charge and will continue doing what it does naturally. What we humans then can do is adapt our world to what nature is giving us."

National Park Services manages the lands at Micro Beach with a technical agreement with the CNMI that essentially leases 177 acres of land to operate the park.

MHS, SIS top VFW contests this year

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

The Veterans of Foreign Wars on Saipan awarded top students who participated in this year's Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Youth Essay competition held at the VFW location along Beach Road.

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of the $2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition.

The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program in 1947 to provide high school students the opportunity to express themselves about democratic ideas and principles.

The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from $1,000 to $16,000, and the first-place winner from each state wins a minimum scholarship of $1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

For 2016, the VOD theme was "My Vision For America."

Marianas High School student Mary Grace Tiglao, who placed first in the Voice of Democracy essay competition for the high school division last year, took second place this time around.

MHS student Ainah Chargualaf took first place, with Olivia Hirsh, also of MHS, finishing third.

In addition to the VOD contest, 125,000 students in the middle school grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW commander-in-chief.

This year's theme was "What Freedom Means to Me" with Saipan International School taking all the wins, with Shea Hartig in first place, Maria Gregoire in second place, and Rei Sekiguchi in third.

Last year, Mount Carmel School and Marianas Baptist Academy were among the top winners.

Pete Callaghan of the VFW said the purpose of the competition is to promote and educate students on patriotism and citizenship.

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Man allegedly points handgun at two other men

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested for allegedly pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father, former lawmaker Christopher Leon Guerrero, at a poker arcade in Garapan last weekend.

The two alleged victims, however, stated they assisted Leon Guerrero, who vomited and blacked out, but his son, Hermany Palacios Santos, 38, instead accused them of beating up his father.

» **Ex-lawmaker fell after playing poker for several hours; defendant accused victims of beating his father**

Santos was arrested Sunday morning and taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $10,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 15 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Santos. Acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

According to police, Peter Cabrera Camacho and Froilan Mendiola Camacho called for police assistance at 99 Cents Supermarket in Garapan on Sunday at 5:13am.

Peter Camacho told police that he and Froilan Camacho were at the U-Luck Poker in Garapan on Friday and saw Leon Guerrero playing poker since 6pm that day. Every time Leon Guerrero would withdraw his money from the poker machine, he would give Peter and Froilan Camacho some money.

At 3am on Saturday, after giving money to the Camachos twice, Leon Guerrero's phone rang. He got up and was walking out when he started vomiting. He then blacked out and fell forward, hitting his head on the flower bed, according to Peter and Froilan Camacho.

Peter and Froilan Camacho helped Leon Guerrero and called for an ambulance, which brought him to the hospital.

Leon Guerrero is a former House representative and a retired police officer.

Peter Camacho stated that on Sunday at 5am, he and Froilan Camacho were driving past the MIHA housing when they saw Santos' vehicle. The two decided to stop by, met Santos, and asked him how his father, Leon Guerrero, was doing.

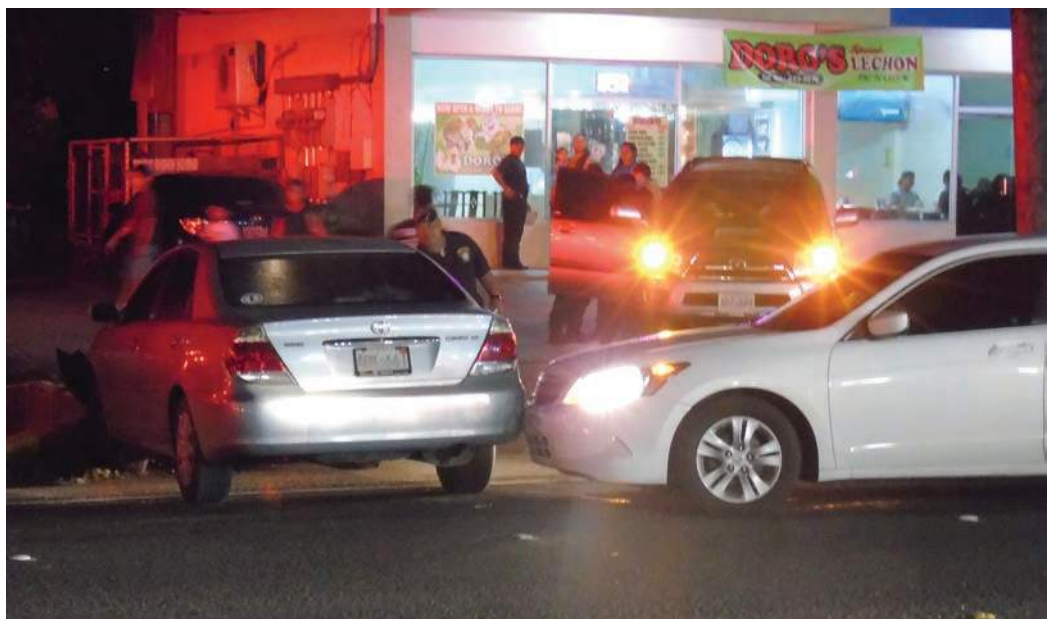
Santos walked toward their vehicle while allegedly loading a gun with three bullets. Santos went over to the passenger side, where Peter Camacho was sitting and allegedly pointed the gun at his head, accusing them of beating up his father. He also allegedly pointed the gun at Froilan Camacho.

Peter Camacho told Santos he had it all wrong and that they helped his father and even carried him into an ambulance. He told Santos to follow them to U-Luck Poker and take a look at the surveillance camera if he doesn't believe them.

Froilan Camacho said that Santos got on his vehicle to follow them but later made a U-turn and went back to the housing area.

Peter and Froilan Camacho then drove to 99 Cents Supermarket in Garapan, where they called for police assistance.

At 5:22am on Sunday, two police officers proceeded to Housing M-16, where they met Santos. Santos allegedly threw something to the back of the house. The officers checked the back of the house and recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder.



ROAD MISHAP
Police officers investigate a collision between two cars along Middle Road near Doro's Lechon in Garapan on Saturday night. A southbound car being driven by a woman turned left toward Doro's Lechon area when a northbound car also being driven by a woman struck the vehicle. No one was reported injured. Police placed the accident under further investigation.
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IN OGUMORO'S CORRUPTION CASE

Wiseman orders DPS to submit internal affairs investigation of cop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the Department of Public Safety to submit in court the entire internal affairs investigation of a police detective in connection with the corruption charges against former DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and Herman M. Manglona Jr.

Wiseman ordered DPS on Wednesday to submit the investigation report for in-camera review on or before last Friday at 12pm.

In-camera submission means filed in private.

Wiseman said he will review the submitted material without the presence of the parties' counsels. The parties will be notified later as to the court's findings.

At a hearing last Nov. 18, Wiseman raised a number of concerns it had with Ogumoro's motion to compel compliance with a subpoena directed toward DPS.

Ogumoro is seeking documents and all records related to an internal affairs investigations conducted by DPS in relation with detective Melissa Bauleong, a prospective witness in the case.

Wiseman said that last Nov. 19, he allowed DPS to file a written opposition to the motion on or before Nov. 24, 2015. DPS did not file a written opposition.

While DPS did not file an objection, Wiseman said the court has concerns with compelling DPS to disclose the entire internal affairs investigation file of an officer—usually confidential in nature.

Wiseman said generally there is no blanket protection of information contained in internal affairs investigation files.

The trial of Ogumoro and Manglona supposed to start yesterday, but Wiseman rescheduled it to March 14, 2016.

Wiseman issued the new trial date after the prosecution and counsels for Ogumoro and Manglona held an in-chamber conference with him on Friday afternoon.

Wiseman did not indicate the reason for the new schedule.

A source, however, disclosed that the reason was a medical matter involving a witness in the case.

The 57-year-old Ogumoro has been charged with eight counts relating to theft by deception, misconduct in public office, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, removal of government property, and theft by unlawful taking.

Manglona has been charged with conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition and receiving stolen property.

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Manibusan dismantles bill that seeks to abolish DPL

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said yesterday that a House bill to abolish the Department of Public Lands and replace it with a body outside of the Executive Branch would bring the management of public lands full circle, replicating power structures that past lawmakers found in violation of the CNMI Constitution.

Manibusan, in written comments to the bill yesterday, cited a Commonwealth Supreme Court ruling in 2010.

H.B. 19-89 wants to abolish Public Lands and replace it with the Marianas Land Corporation with a board of trustees who would manage and control public lands in the Commonwealth.

Manibusan said an autonomous agency whose management and authority does not serve at the pleasure of the CNMI governor cannot perform a function that the Constitution reserves and assigns to the Executive Branch.

"A constitutional amendment is required if the Legislature is firm in its resolve to place the management and disposition of public lands with an autonomous agency," Manibusan said.

When sought for comment, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said that since the Constitution is the "supreme law of the land," lawmakers should a make a decision based on the constitutional mandate, and take the feedback and comments before making a final decision on the bill.

Manibusan said that placing public lands within a public corporation that can be sued will expose public lands to possible forfeiture.

He said the CNMI only holds bare legal title to properties.

At present, he said, DPL cannot sue or be sued in its own name. This, he said, insulates trust assets from seizure as judgment against the Commonwealth can only be paid out of funds appropriated by the Legislature.

He said the proposed bill will "jeopardize public lands and subject them to seizure for no apparent purpose."

On a section to prohibit future legislatures from approving or appropriating Capital Improvement Projects for any homestead development projects in the CNMI, Maibusan calls this "unclear" and objectionable, as the Legislature cannot constitutionally prohibit future legislatures from doing so.

To do so would require a constitutional amendment, he said.

"Second, this provision places the last nail in the coffin of the homestead program," he adds. "Without a source of homestead funding, no permit will be issued for homestead reconstruction."

On the provision to establish a board of trustees, Manibusan said this would make it impossible for the governor to exercise his executive function with respect to public lands if he or she has no power to appoint the members serving during a term in office. "A six-year term will span gubernatorial terms and is objectionable on these grounds."

On a provision to restrict the granting of agricultural permits to U.S. citizens, Manibusan said this violates the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. He said the 14th amendment applies to the CNMI, and a state law that discriminates on the basis of alienage can be held only if it can withstand strict judicial scrutiny.

In order to do so, he said, there needs to be compelling state interest. "There is no compelling interest in restricting permits for agricultural purposes to U.S. citizens. In other words, there is no compelling interest in restricting foreign residents lawfully present in the Commonwealth from acquiring agricultural permits for the use of public land."

Manbisan also notes that that the bill establishes compensation rates at "over twice that established for other boards and commissions in the Commonwealth." He adds that compensation should fall in line with pay scale to ensure fairness.

LAW

From Page 1

in line with recent clamor from the House of Representatives minority bloc over provisions to provide tax breaks to the casino, among others.

Saipan casino regulators, who had been threatened in their ability to oversee the casino's proposed $7-billion casino resort investment without these funds, will now be funded through an annual casino license fee with Public Law 19-24.

Administration officials understood the bill as an appropriations bill, and therefore one that could be line-item vetoed, with inessential or unrelated policy calls left on the cutting room floor, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

"I agree with the fundamental purpose of this legislation—to appropriate money so that the Commonwealth Casino Commission is funded by the licensee to do the all-important work of regulating the gaming industry on Saipan. House Bill 19-95…accomplishes this goal," Torres said in a letter Friday to both chambers of the Legislature.

"However, there are several issues with which I disapprove and additional legislative work is required on other matters," Torres added.

In reviewing the bill, Torres' office flagged three concerns. Provisions to allow legislative veto over a potential casino license revocation; mandate that casino employees be declared essential in case of austerity or government shutdown; and allow tax credits for the Saipan casino if they passed a certain tax threshold—all three were dropped from the final bill.

"We are thankful that they listened to our concerns and agreed with our views," said Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) yesterday. He added that Torres had met with House minority leader Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), who had expressed his concerns.

"I appreciate our acting governor for listening and reaching out across the partisanship that we so often have in the House," added Propst, a member the House minority bloc, over the phone yesterday.

Tax credits

Torres vetoed the provision to provide for a nonrefundable tax credit.

This tax credit, which would be applied against the CNMI's Gross Revenue Tax in the amount of the casino regulator fee of $3 million per year, was disapproved.

"As originally envisioned in the enabling statute, the cost of regulating casino gaming activities on Saipan are to be paid in full by the licensee and I am not convinced there are good reasons to grant tax relief for this expense," Torres said.

Without these vetoes, the bill would have allowed Best Sunshine International, Ltd. to deduct $3 million from tax liabilities going forward—if—they first met and paid out $20 million in BGRT after a given year, a figure deducted from an estimated $400 million earnings.

That means the $3 million annual fee would be counted as credit for their tax liabilities if they reached this $20 million threshold, moving forward.

Legislative oversight

Torres vetoed parts of section in the bill that provides that "any decision of the commission to revoke the exclusive casino license shall be submitted to the Legislature for approval by a majority of the members of each house through joint resolution."

Torres disapproved of this provision as an "unconstitutional legislative veto," in conflict with the separation of powers doctrine.

"If the Legislature wishes to enhance oversight over the important decision to revoke the exclusive casino license, I suggest that a set of criteria be put into legislation which would outline the process and procedure for the revocation that [the casino commission] shall follow in a manner consistent with the Constitution," Torres said.

Essential employees

A provision to deem commission employees as "essential," in case of fiscal crisis or closure of nonessential government agencies was vetoed in its entirety.

Commission members and its employees "are not to be construed as employees of the Commonwealth," Torres said.

Torres said the provision conflicts with Section 13 of the bill, which deemed commission employees "not employees of the Commonwealth but shall be indemnified and defended as if they were."

If the provision were made law, it would be first time in local statutory history that the CNMI defined and declared employees as essential in case of government shutdown, *Saipan Tribune* learned. In previous budget meltdowns, the government issued memorandums declaring which employees were essential.

18-year-old handling of alcohol

While not vetoing the provision, Torres encouraged the Legislature to revisit the amendment that allows people within the ages of 18 and 21 to serve alcoholic beverages on the casino floor.

"The CNMI government should think through whether an employee—older than 18 years of age—is a more appropriate age delineation to permit the service [of] alcohol beverages," Torres said.

That amendment was tailored to allow casino employees licensed by commission to serve alcohol at the casino, provided they do not consume it during their employment.

The commission has said the amendment is a recommendation of the Northern Marianas College, whose students have reportedly expressed interest in working on the casino floor but cannot because of these age limitations.

ICE

From Page 1

tainer was opened to reveal thick paint and a strong putrid odor. As the officers continued to probe the paint, an officer noticed a black plastic bag inside, making him suspicious. After the officers removed the hardened paint inside the container, three black plastic bags were revealed.

The content of the bags were field-tested and found presumptive positive for methamphetamines, or "ice."

The total weight was 4.9 lbs. The estimated street value is $850,000.

Immediately after the finding, Customs alerted their law enforcement partners, which include the Department of Public Safety, the Drug Enforcement Agency task force, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Homeland Security Investigations unit, U.S. Marshals, and the CNMI Attorney General Investigative Unit.

"As a result of this operation, three Chinese nationals were arrested," Customs director Jose Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, after relaying the story of the CNMI's most recent ice bust.

The ice bust comes just five months after 23 lbs of ice was seized by Customs in July, the biggest bust in CNMI history.

That's a total of 28 lbs of ice worth over $5 million in value within a five-month period, said Mafnas.

"It goes to tell us if there is a will, there are those who are going to make every effort to smuggle…We still have to be vigilant, protecting our borders," said Major. Greg Sablan, deputy director of Customs.

"The most important thing is that 28 lbs [of ice] did not go out and affect our community," Mafnas said.

"Once it gets out on the streets, you can imagine the destruction it will impose on the community, the friends, families that are addicted to it," added Sablan.

Sablan commended Customs staff yesterday for their vigilance in protecting the CNMI's borders. "We want to give the public assurance that—even if we are underpaid and with limited resources—we will continue to be vigilant to protect our borders and protect our community."

"I am optimistic in the end we are going to win this war," added Mafnas.

Acting governor Ralph LG Torres welcomed the news in a statement yesterday.

"Every time the vigilant men and women at the Division of Customs prevent crystal methamphetamine from reaching our shores, we move one step closer to winning the War on Ice. …The men and women of Customs and all our enforcement entities have the full support they need to fight this war. I want to thank Director Mafnas and his team for being at the frontline of this war and continuing to prevent this drug from reaching our community at its source," Torres said.

Ice task force

The arrests of the three Chinese national were also coincidentally made while law enforcement officials and other agencies met for the first time at an interagency "War on Ice" task force during an inaugural meeting on Capital Hill last Friday, the Customs officials said.

The ice task force has announced plans to strengthen CNMI laws on asset seizures, to seize not only money but also other possessions like vehicles, accounts, and land.

"If we take away those tools for them to continue their business then that's one way" to get them to pick up their business and go elsewhere, said Sablan.

Policy makers are planning to make seizure laws more stringent. That, and possibly lengthening jail terms for ice dealers.

"Longer jail terms, no probation, no parole," said Sablan. "If you are found guilty and convicted to serve 20 years, we want you to serve that 20 years concurrent."

This, he said, would serve as a deterrent to prevent others from dealing with this type of illegal narcotic or drug.

"…If you do the crime you will do the time," Sablan said. "We've seen it where people are incarcerated, they get out of jail and they go back to the same thing again. We want to send out a strong message."

New equipment

The RFP also closed recently for new x-ray machines at the airport and seaport.

A vendor has been selected, with Customs now processing two x-ray machines for the airport and seaport.

For a handheld x-ray scanner, Customs is working directly with a vendor out Boston, Massachusetts, after there were no interests for the service in the RFP, said Mafnas.

"Usually, drug dealers are one step, two steps ahead of us. Once we have the equipment available—the x-ray machines—it will speed up the process and hopefully lead to more interceptions," added Sablan.

TINIAN

From Page 1

Blanco Maratita Sunday.

According to her, some of the conditions include:

■ Payment of table and slot machine fees and outstanding taxes from last fiscal year, starting in August. The casino has paid the $250,00 annual casino license fee, she said.

■ The casino needs to pay unpaid employee salaries or submits a plan on how they will repay on these employees' back wages

■ The casino must assure that they will continue to contract services with Spectrum Gaming, a consultant, for casino management to help the casino maintain compliance

■ The casino has to make sure employee license or hotel registrations are up to date. Some of the employees have had provisional licenses, only good for a certain period. Maratita says the licenses need to be renewed.

■ The casino must identify and disclose the source of funds for its reopening.

The casino, if it reopens, will not be a 24-hour operation, Maratita said.

It will open from 11am to 3am the following morning, and close between those hours, except for Friday through Saturday, where they will be open for 24 hours.

The Tinian casino is operated by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. It was closed in August this year, followed by the hotel's closure in September, with the management citing the impact of Typhoon Soudelor, which hit Saipan on Aug. 3.

Dec. 8 both a religious and secular tradition in the Marianas

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

Dec. 8 marks the 74th anniversary of the beginning of World War II in the Marianas during the first battle of Guam in 1941 between the Empire of Japan and the United States.

According to *Beyond the Fence* anchor host, Dr. Vivian Dames, the American garrison was defeated by Japanese forces, which resulted in an occupation until the Second Battle of Guam in 1944. The Japanese invasion began soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, with the bombing of Sumay Village, which is now the U.S. Naval Base in Guam.

The bombings in Guam, she said, interrupted the High Mass being celebrated at the island's only cathedral as well as the novena and procession that normally follows the celebratory feast day of Santa Maria Kamalen, known to many as the Immaculate Conception, an iconic representation of Mother Mary, revered as the patron saint and protector for over 300 years.

"Since 1941, each Mass celebrated on Dec. 8 marks the completion of the observance of this holy day which was interrupted by war, one experienced by many Catholics as a test of faith. This day also provides a special occasion to reflect upon the meaning of peace and protection in other than military terms," she said.

In 2003, Dr. Laura Marie Torres Souder became the *techa* or prayer leader of the original *nobena* for Santa Marian Kamalen and the *kamarera* or caretaker of the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen, which she inherited from her mother, Mariquita Torres Souder, who served as the *kamamera* for 75 years after the war.

The real Santa Marian Kamalen is used only for the islandwide procession on Dec. 8 in Guam; on other occasions a replica is used.

In the CNMI, Dec. 8 marks the 39th Constitution Day representative of the islands' political relationship with the United States.

The Commonwealth Constitution was drafted by 39 elected delegates during a constitutional convention on Saipan 39 years ago.

Their proposed constitution was subsequently ratified by Northern Mariana Islands voters on March 6, 1977, and became effective Jan. 9, 1978. The original ratified 1976 un-amended Constitution and the latest Constitution with amendments and case annotations is reprinted in the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code and is also sold in pamphlet format by the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission.

Many provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution are mandated by the Covenant, including the bill of rights in Article I, the separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches established in Articles II, III, and IV, and the provision in Article XII restricting acquisition of long-term interests in land to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Prior to November 1999, 21 proposed amendments failed to win approval from voters, including 19 amendments proposed by a third constitutional convention that convened in 1995 which were voted upon in a special election held in March 1996, an amendment proposed by popular initiative in 1989, and an amendment proposed by legislative initiative in 1995.

Members of the community can view the Commonwealth Constitution online at http://cnmilaw.org/cnmiconstitution.html.

CUC takes over Water Task Force projects

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now in charge of projects left behind by the Water Task Force after its mission closed last week.

In a memorandum of agreement signed last week, the task force's current workload now shifts to CUC.

According to CUC chief engineer John Riegel, there are two projects that are currently under construction: replacing the water distribution system in Lower Base and replacing the Gualo Rai tank.

Riegel said the project in Puerto Rico, the 1-million gallon reservoir, is almost finished.

"The contractor just needs to install solar lighting," he said.

The task force was also working with the Tinian delegation to replace the tank on Tinian but Riegel said no contract has been signed for that yet.

"The project was already advertised under the Governor's Office. I don't know if that contract can and will continue," he added.

Riegel recognized that the Water Task Force was able to accomplish a lot since being formed.

Mission accomplished

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres lauded the task force's many undertakings, saying they accomplished their mission to increase overall access to clean water.

"…We should congratulate its hardworking staff and management over the past nine years. They had a goal and they made tremendous progress. A job well done overall," Torres said.

The task force was created in 2003. Prior to its creation, only 26 percent of Saipan's population had access to clean water on a 24-hour basis. This year, 96 percent of Saipan's population has 24-hour water.

It has completed over 20 projects including building water tanks, replacing old waterlines, leak detection, among others worth over $44 million.

After the MOA signing last week, task force program manager Pete Sasamoto announced his retirement.

"Pete Sasamoto has a long history of public service in the CNMI. A registered professional engineer, Mr. Sasamoto worked in Planning & Budget, Public Works, and as the first executive director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He came out of retirement to direct the Water Task Force and turned the project into a successful contribution to the people of the island, many of whom lived for years with very limited water service. His dedication and expertise are unique assets that will be missed by this administration," Torres said.

Govt staff, man arrested for 'ice'

A government employee and a man were arrested over the weekend on Tinian for alleged trafficking and possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Didi San Nicolas Pascua, 33, an employee of the Tinian Fire Department, was arrested for trafficking and illegal possession of controlled substance. Her bail was set at $25,000 cash.

Frankie P. Cabrera, 40, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance. His bail was set at $5,000 cash.

Court papers did not indicate if Pascua and Cabrera are related.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Pascua, while the court will appoint a private counsel for Cabrera.

The police were reportedly investigating Pascua's alleged involvement in "ice" trafficking and obtained a warrant to search her home and car last Nov. 25.

Police detective Shawn Lee SN. Borja, DPS Tinian director Juan Santos Jr., and three other officers executed the warrant on Pascua's residence last Thursday at 4:45pm.

Borja said said that Cabrera was found inside the house, sitting on the couch in the living room/kitchen area. Officers allegedly found two glass tubes with burned residue underneath the seat where Cabrera was seated.

Borja said officers also found several cut and uncut straws that contained residue of a white powdery substance.

In the bedroom, the officers allegedly found a purse that contained three baggies that had residue of a white powdery substance, as well as a bag containing a white crystalline substance and two weighing scales.

The officers also searched Cabrera's car that was parked next to Pascua's residence and found two glass tubes and four straws. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘NMI govt also has role to play in building casino resort’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The ambitious target date of late 2016 to complete a $500-million, 14-story casino resort in the heart of Garapan has raised questions about the government’s ability to mitigate or facilitate the infrastructure development, as one necessary aspect of the project—a reported 8,500-foot sewer pipeline—would be built off casino grounds and shoot down Garapan toward public sewer facilities in Puerto Rico.

“How much will it cost the CNMI government on just that one small part? Does the government have the cost analysis of how much it’s going to cost? To dig it up, hold the traffic? Are we doing our end?” House minority leader Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said Thursday.

“What is the plan? We are in it…in the second year, or even more,” Tebuteb said. “My concern is that the government is a part of this whole deal.”

It was revealed Friday that a bid closed in November for an architectural or engineering firm to serve as the Commonwealth’s representative on the “Development Plan Advisory Committee,” a working group made up of the engineering firm hired by the casino and a firm with integrated resort experience to represent the CNMI.

The committee was mandated as part of the 2014 casino licensing agreement.

Only one firm submitted a bid, *Saipan Tribune* learned Friday.

If selected, the firm would consult the CNMI governor and help steer the ambitious casino project, monitor the casino’s development, and track how it meets project implementation schedules.

According to its exclusive casino licensing agreement with the CNMI government, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. must complete “Phase 1” of its casino project within 36 months of land acquisition.

The project in Garapan forms Phase 1 of the project, with Phase 2 being planned on the northern end of the island.

Among many others, Best Sunshine must meet requirements inclusive of 2,000 hotel guest rooms; 17,000 square meters of total gaming floor area; 13,532 square meters of food and beverage outlets; 15,000 square meters of retail space; a 600-seat theatre; 9,094 square meters of meeting space, including a ballroom; 200 villas, and a $100-million themed entertainment facility.

Waiting on design

Wastewater piping in Garapan has been found inadequate for BSI’s estimated 24,000 gallons of discharge from its casino hotel per day.

If not addressed, public utility officials have said, these flows are expected to inundate the wastewater system in the area, causing discharge to backflow, affecting existing businesses and development.

When asked Thursday, then-acting executive director John Riegel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said he has not seen any plans for the wastewater pipeline.

Riegel called the pipeline “necessary to proceed” with the casino development but he hasn’t seen any proposed plan since the project proceeded with design last June.

That month, Riegel said, the casino had begun design on an approximately 8,500-foot sewer force main, or pressurized pipe system, to accommodate waste flows from its planned 14-story casino resort in Garapan.

The force main would be in an alignment—preliminary—down Beach Road in Garapan to Middle Road, Riegel said then, and would follow along Middle Road to the point of intersection with an existing force main from lift station “S3” to the “ST” treatment plant. It would tie into the existing force main, Riegel had said.

When sought for comment Thursday about the late 2016 completion date in light of the necessary pipeline project, Riegel said, “It’s an extremely ambitious schedule—so I don’t know.”

“The ball is in their court,” he added.

Compliant?

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada said Friday that the casino has been compliant with its regulatory permit since it began construction in Garapan.

“So far, they are in compliance,” Ada said.

Saipan Tribune was trying to verify reports of that a construction manager hired by Best Sunshine left the project last week, after the Chinese construction company it oversaw continued to frustrate and fail regulations.

Ada said that is news to him.

“Not to my knowledge,” Ada said. “If there was any non-compliance it would have come to my table. But right now, I don’t see any[thing] disruptive…from them. That’s news to me.

“I haven’t seen anything on my desk,” he added.

He noted that his Building Code Division staff of four inspects hotel and construction sites every single day.

“My staff of four goes out north, south, east, west daily,” he said.

DPAC

The November bid proposal will have a three-member committee assigned to review the proposal: a licensed engineer from the Bureau of Environmental and Costal Quality, an engineer from Public Works or the Capital Improvement Office, and an engineer of the casino, according to the request for proposal announcement.

DPAC was established to facilitate communication between the CNMI and the licensee, implement license requirements, and implement development schedule.

The committee is responsible for reviewing and advising on the design of the initial gaming facility and the integrated resort.

The CNMI’s representative on the committee will report directly to the CNMI governor.

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Nominations still sought for 2016 Employer Support Freedom Award

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite an estimated 100 reservists in the U.S. Army and the National Guard and their spouses on the island, no nominations have been made for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their support of employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

For the last three years the Public School System was nominated for the award for employing over 30 service members in various positions, while other government entities such as the Department of Finance, Division of Customs, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the former Hollywood Theater, and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter were previous nominations.

According to the ESGR State Committee, these entities can still be nominated again for this year’s award.

Spouses of service members can also submit nominations for employers who supported them while the service member was deployed or away for military training, according to ESGR volunteer Rose Igitol.

The Guam-CNMI ESGR State Committee would like to see at least five or more nominations from the CNMI before the close of submission on Dec. 31, 2015.

This award recognizes employers who go above and beyond in supporting members of the Guard and Reserve—from continuing benefits and healthcare during deployments, to helping with home maintenance and sponsoring veteran hiring initiatives. Service members can thank employers for their exemplary support by submitting a Freedom Award nomination.

Last year, there were 2,960 nationwide nominations submitted online at www.FreedomAward.mil.

This year, the State Committee Freedom Award selection board will select three local Guam and CNMI finalists in the large and small business categories as well as in the government sector. These nominations will be forwarded to compete with other states and territories.

ESGR is asking local Guard and Reserve service members to submit their nominations before the deadline. For more information contact Igitol at (670) 287-1129 or Norma Castillon at (671) 483-0184.

Temporary power outages this week

As crews continue mounting transformers and reconnecting customers across Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is continuing with the next phase of the restoration by addressing portions of Saipan’s power transmission and distribution system less seriously damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

To maximize resources and accomplish restoration goals as quickly as possible, CUC will conduct a series of temporary power interruptions in the coming weeks to allow linemen safe access to the primary lines for the replacement of essential power distribution materials.

At 8am today, Dec. 8, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service along Feeder 3 (including Garapan, Chinatown, Gualo Rai, and Chalan Laulau) to replace eight deteriorated power poles and hardware. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

At 8am Wednesday, Dec. 9, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service along the Kiya 1 feeder (including Lower Dandan, Dandan Homestead, south of Dandan Middle School, and Obyan) to replace eight deteriorated primary power poles and hardware. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

At 8am Saturday, Dec. 12, CUC line crews will temporarily interrupt power service along the Kiya 4 feeder (including Chalan Kiya, Oleai, Susupe, and portions of Chalan Kanoa) to replace three deteriorated primary power poles and hardware, and “re-sag” primary conductors. Work on the repairs is expected to take up to nine hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

The temporary power outages will also impact water service, as all wells in the affected areas will be offline. CUC water customers in the affected areas will experience limited water service until the power is restored.

For more information, visit our website www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

CDA, CUC sit down to talk about $45M agreement

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. met Friday in what some board members noted as a milestone event to discuss their preferred stock agreement.

"The purpose of this meeting is to determine essentially whether CUC is capable to live up to that agreement," CDA executive director Manuel Sablan said at the meeting.

» CUC board mulls using oil price savings, infrastructure surcharge

In 2002, a memorandum of agreement was signed and was revised in 2004 to turn CUC's debt into equity for CDA. About five years later, the agreement was executed, turning that total debt of about $200 million and the total interest debt of $138,672 into equity, or $45 million in preferred stock held by CDA. CUC's dividend payment was set at 2 percent, or $900,000 a year of that amount. The deferred payment of three years is amortized over 15 years, for $180,000 a year.

"What really strikes me is that the first loan that was advanced to CUC was made back in 1988 and only $100,000 was paid to CDA from that time today. That's 27 years ago," Sablan said.

He pointed out that CUC has some cash flow and therefore must appropriate some of them to pay CDA, as the utilities corporation is also able to pay its obligations to CPA.

"Not only do you have a positive cash flow of $4.1 million, but after deducting all of this, you still have up to $1.2 million," Sablan said.

"A couple of days ago, I read in the newspaper that you've entered into a settlement agreement with [the Public School System] so they can start making payments on their account. …Why can't that account be assigned to CDA so that you can demonstrate, show some activity on this?" he asked.

Sablan told the CUC board to have a structure on how they're going to pay.

"What I'm asking you really is just sit down and find a way to structure this because what's happening right now is we've entered into an agreement for the last 27 years and was never able to receive a penny and it's not revolving," Sablan said.

"The records are telling me that you're capable to pay, at least some, if not all," he added.

Sablan said they want to bring CUC's account current as the agreement is technically in default.

Fuel savings, infrastructure surcharge

CUC board members reiterated that they want to be able to pay CDA without increasing their rates for the customers.

Speaking on behalf of the board, CUC board member David Sablan brought up several suggestions on how the company can go about paying CDA.

"We have some savings on the oil price. We have saved now 18 cents per kilowatt hour," Sablan said. "We have an opportunity now to maybe take back two cents of that savings. It's not raising the rates, it's actually taking some of that savings and every cent of savings on the kilowatt hour, equates $2 million," David Sablan said.

He said they will discuss this among the board as well as the need for them to continue pursuing government entities who owe them in turn such as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

He also mentioned continuing the infrastructure surcharge that is already in place to help them with their obligations but added that they also need to present that to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. The infrastructure surcharge was put in place to help purchase the contract for Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico.

"I suggest it to our board to reconsider this, and I wanted to bring it back to the attention of the board, to continue that infrastructure surcharge but call it something different. We have to call it something different when we present it to PUC," Sablan said.

Sablan noted that they are aware that they have to pay CDA about $4.2 million by September of next year for their account to be current.

"We are insolvent but we have an opportunity because we have a revenue source to improve on our cash position by just addressing these matters that need to be addressed and need to be put as a priority. I think if we do that, the general public would agree with maybe us asking back that 2 cents per kilowatt hour in savings," David Sablan said.

CUC also noted the need to increase their revenue stream by getting more customers, especially on their wastewater and sewer system.

"We have a revenue issue. We need to increase our revenue. Even if you decrease our personnel expenses 100 percent, we still would have issues because of how much fuel costs," CUC chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto said via telephone.

Continued discussion

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications and who also attended the meeting, called for cooperation and collaboration.

"If CUC is able and willing to negotiate and work with the government as well and with PSS and CHCC then it's only natural that other agencies will be forthcoming in helping CUC," Igisomar said.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto said they will be discussing the suggestions and concerns in the meeting with the rest of the CUC board at their next meeting this December and will communicate with CDA.

"We would take all this into consideration and present it to the rest of the board," Roberto said. "We have not forgotten."

"What I am hearing is there is some willingness from the CUC board members and in fact they have laid out several options on how we can resolve these obligations of CUC to CDA and this would have to be discussed also among CUC board," CDA chair Diego Songao said.

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High court denies Ogumoro's petitions for writ relief

On Dec. 4, 2015, the NMI Supreme Court issued full opinions in *In re Ogumoro*, 2015 MP 9 and 2015 MP 10, consistent with previous orders denying two petitions for writ relief filed by Ambrosio T. Ogumoro. A writ allows the high court to order that the trial court either take or refrain from taking a specific action.

Ogumoro's first petition requested a writ of mandamus to order the recusal of the trial court judge; or, alternatively, a writ of prohibition to prevent the trial judge from presiding over the case. The high court addressed three arguments advanced by Ogumoro. First, Ogumoro asserted the trial judge erred by not recusing from the case because another trial judge, previously assigned to the case, recused after hearing incriminating evidence about Ogumoro. Second, Ogumoro claimed the trial judge prejudged the case because the judge found probable cause to support the arrest warrant. Third, Ogumoro purported that the trial judge inappropriately engaged in ex parte contacts with the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor at the hearing on the ex parte appointment of a special prosecutor and at a subsequent evidentiary hearing.

The Supreme Court determined Ogumoro failed to demonstrate the trial court's decision was clearly erroneous because: (1) one trial court's decision does not bind another; (2) a reasonable person would not question the trial judge's impartiality because a finding of probable cause is not a determination of guilt; and (3) the trial judge did not engage in ex parte contacts because the OAG and the OPA were the only interested parties to the special prosecutor and evidentiary proceedings. As such, the high court denied the first petition.

Ogumoro's second petition sought a writ to prohibit the trial court from appointing a special prosecutor. The high court reviewed whether the trial court violated the court's order in *In re San Nicolas*, 2013 MP 8, which mandated the trial court hold a hearing on whether the OAG should be disqualified. The high court held there was a rational and substantial argument that a hearing was unnecessary because the OAG evaluated the appropriateness of the disqualification and agreed to the continued appointment of the special prosecutor. Because the OAG made the determination required in *In re San Nicolas*, the trial court did not clearly err by canceling the hearing. Accordingly, the Supreme Court denied the second petition.

The high court's opinions are available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

10 nominated for Executive of the Year plum

Guam Business Magazine announced Monday the nominees for the 2015 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year. The annual Executive of the Year award program recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia and who have raised the bar in their fields.

The nominees are:

■ Benson Au-Yeung, president, Benz Signs & Supplies, and general manager, Paradise Awning

■ Lynnwood S. Baker, president and general manager, Baker International Inc., which does business as J.L. Baker & Sons

■ Joseph L. Cruz, president and CEO, Cabras Marine Corp.

■ Andrew M. Gayle Jr., chief operating officer, GTA

■ Lars F. Hellmont, co-owner, Fujita Property Guam Inc., and co-founder, SN Entities

■ Jeffrey B. Jones, president and chief operating officer, Triple J Enterprises Inc.

■ Angel Mendoza, president and general manager, DKSH Micronesia

■ Mark J. Sablan, vice president – business development, South Pacific Petroleum Corp.

■ John Sage, vice president and general manager, Watts Constructors LLC

■ Ryan F. Torres, vice president and store manager, Macy's Guam

The winner will be revealed at the Executive of the Year award gala on Jan. 23 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, together with the release of the January-February 2016 issue of Guam Business Magazine, which will feature a commissioned portrait of the winner on the cover.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross. Tickets are available for $175 per person and may be purchased from Chita A. Blaise, CEO of the American Red Cross, by calling (671) 472-6217 or by emailing chita.blaise@redcross.org.

Past Executive of the Year recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of the Century Group of Companies (2005); Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings Inc. (2009); George Chiu of Tan Holdings (2013); and Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Tropical Instant Press Inc., Saipan Shipping Co. and Advance Carrier (2014). ***(PR)***

DAISY DEMAPAN

CAREER EXPLORATION

Eighty high school students participate in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Career Exploration Day on Dec. 2, 2015, opening the eyes of future workers to what lies ahead after high school graduation.

NMI Soroptomist works to empower women

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

Soroptomist International of the Northern Mariana Islands has been empowering women and contributing to the community since its charter in 2013, according to club president Jill Arenovski.

As guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Saipan at their Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Arenovski shared with Rotary members the Soroptomist's actions and successes since its inception.

"A lot has changed since [our charter]. Instead of having plans and hopes, we have actions and successes. Our club has a monthly business luncheon on the second Thursday of every month in our mission to empower women through education. We believe that women are the center of the family and when we make women stronger, we make families stronger. In turn, our communities are stronger," she said.

Their signature project called the Live Your Dream Award goes to a woman who is attending college on- or off-island and is the primary financial support of the family.

The monetary award offered by the club is used toward any purpose, such as transportation, food, childcare, and whatever is needed to support the completion of the awardee's education.

"Soroptimist recognizes the hardships of a woman on her own whose furthering her education while caring both financial and emotionally for her family," Arenovski said.

In the first year of the club, Soroptomist International of the Americas donated $1,000 to the local club for the LYD award. The second year, another award for $1,000 was given. In October this year, the 3rd Annual LYD event was held at Kanoa Resort offering two $1,000 awards to a freshman in college off-island who was orphaned at a young age along with her four younger sisters and the other, a single mother attending the Northern Marianas College working full time at a local hotel.

The opportunity also gave the awardees eligibility to receive $5,000 or $10,000 awards from Soroptomist International of the Americas.

"Alone we can do a little, together we can do a lot. We appreciate the fact that Soroptomist International supports us. Our club members are currently all women but men are welcome," she said, emphasizing diversity in nationalities, professional backgrounds, and personal experiences.

"We support one another and it feels like family. Many of our projects are small acts of kindness such as preparing gifts for the women's shelter at Guma Esperanza and school supplies for children at the shelter. Our funds are small so we focus on gifts with a meaningful touch. We are growing and have bigger plans but we believe by educating each other about our organizations, we'll reduce duplication of efforts," she said.

Soroptomist of the NMI started with 18 original charter members but now has 15 active members.

"Membership has been up and down as we've figured out where we are and what we want to do but our membership is growing again."

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls. Their network of around 80,000 club members in 132 countries and territories works at a local, national and international level to educate, empower, and enable opportunities for women and girls.

In 2012, Soroptimists reported on 3,727 projects to promote women and girls' participation in education and leadership, changing 110,000 lives.

Young professionals invited to SYP Christmas party on Dec. 12

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee will be hosting a "Hafa Adai Christmas Party" on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5:30pm at the Barefoot Bar of Kanoa Resort. The committee would like to invite all young professionals on island to attend the event.

The luau-themed evening will include a sunset buffet dinner, entertainment, exciting raffle prizes, games, and more.

The highlight of the event will be an awards ceremony honoring outstanding SYP members who have contributed their time and efforts toward making a positive difference at work and in their community.

"We are excited to recognize a few SYP members who exemplify leadership at the young professional level," says SYP chair Mable Ayuyu.

She said the committee hopes that other young professionals will be inspired and motivated to follow in the footsteps of up-and-coming leaders.

"There are many young leaders who are active members in our community that most may not know. This is our way of showing our islands that there are young leaders that strive to make our islands an even better place," said Ayuyu.

She also points out that throughout the year, the committee has looked up to experienced leaders who are members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest private business organization in the CNMI.

"We've had a successful year filled with opportunities to be educated, to network and to give back to our community," she said. "We're excited for the year to come and hope that we can encourage an inclusive network of young professionals with a common goal to continue to make a positive difference for our islands."

During the event, the committee will also be donating to the Karidat Christmas Toy Drive.

Tickets to the Christmas Party are $25 for SYP members and $30 for non-SYP members. To purchase tickets to the event, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office at (670) 234-7150 or visit their office at the Marianas Business Plaza, 3rd floor, Suite 315.

For the latest information on the SYP Committee, visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/syp96950. ***(SYP)***

BSI is lead sponsor of Christmas in the Marianas

Tourists pose for pictures with students participating in the Christmas caroling contest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Merchants display locally made creations and products for sale at the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Green Meadow School wear Santa hats and carry their colorful pompoms to bring cheer to the first night of Christmas in the Marianas.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The holiday spirit is alive and well in the CNMI with the longstanding tradition called Christmas in the Marianas. Organized by KKMP and Pacific Development, Inc., this event is celebrated annually on Saipan at the Paseo de Marianas every Saturday night for the entire month of December, with the participation of schools, merchants, civic groups, and private sector organizations that greet community revelers with activities such as the schoolwide Christmas tree decoration contest, caroling and skit contests, handicraft exhibits and sales, holiday ornament contest, and an assortment of holiday-themed activities for the whole island community.

Kicking off its first Saturday last Dec. 5, 2015, this year's platinum sponsor is Best Sunshine International, Ltd., which donated $5,000 to event organizers and took a leading role in the preparations leading to its opening night.

Rita Chong, director of Best Sunshine's corporate social responsibility team, said: "Best Sunshine recognizes the need to partner with organizations who believe in positive change. Only through these collaborative efforts are we able to build momentum necessary to make these positive and helpful changes now. We are reveling in the holiday spirit with Christmas in the Marianas. Each Saturday for the month of December, there is an activity that we are involved in. As the platinum sponsor, we have donated $5,000 to this cause. Corporate social responsibility as a team will be a part of every setup leading up to the main event. Also, every Saturday our judges are going to be judging and tabulating for the contest segments. Our biggest event is on Dec. 19, the float parade. Best Sunshine will be judging floats, as well as revealing our own float."

CSR team member Regina Tomokane said: "We helped decorate and helped set up. Best Sunshine people helped decorated the stage as well. Tonight, we will be judging the wacky costume contest and also tabulating the Christmas tree contest results."

Chong said her team will also be assisting the Department of Public Safety's TOPS with the event Christmas Village. With this, TOPS will be doing a Decorate-A-Tree with a Cop program for the kids, which will be featured in the Christmas Village. Next Saturday, the Christmas Village will be adorned with decorations and props initiated by TOPS as well as a few of our own decorations."

Gordon Marciano of Pacific Development Inc. and KKMP, who emcees' this event, said, "Thank you Best Sunshine and CSR for helping us decorate our stage today. We appreciate all the help that you're providing us for this year's Christmas in the Marianas celebration. Most especially for being the platinum sponsor. Thank you very much, Best Sunshine." ***(BSI)***

The Marianas Ukulele performed Christmas carols for the public.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Students from Oleai Elementary School dress up as wacky Christmas items for the costume competition.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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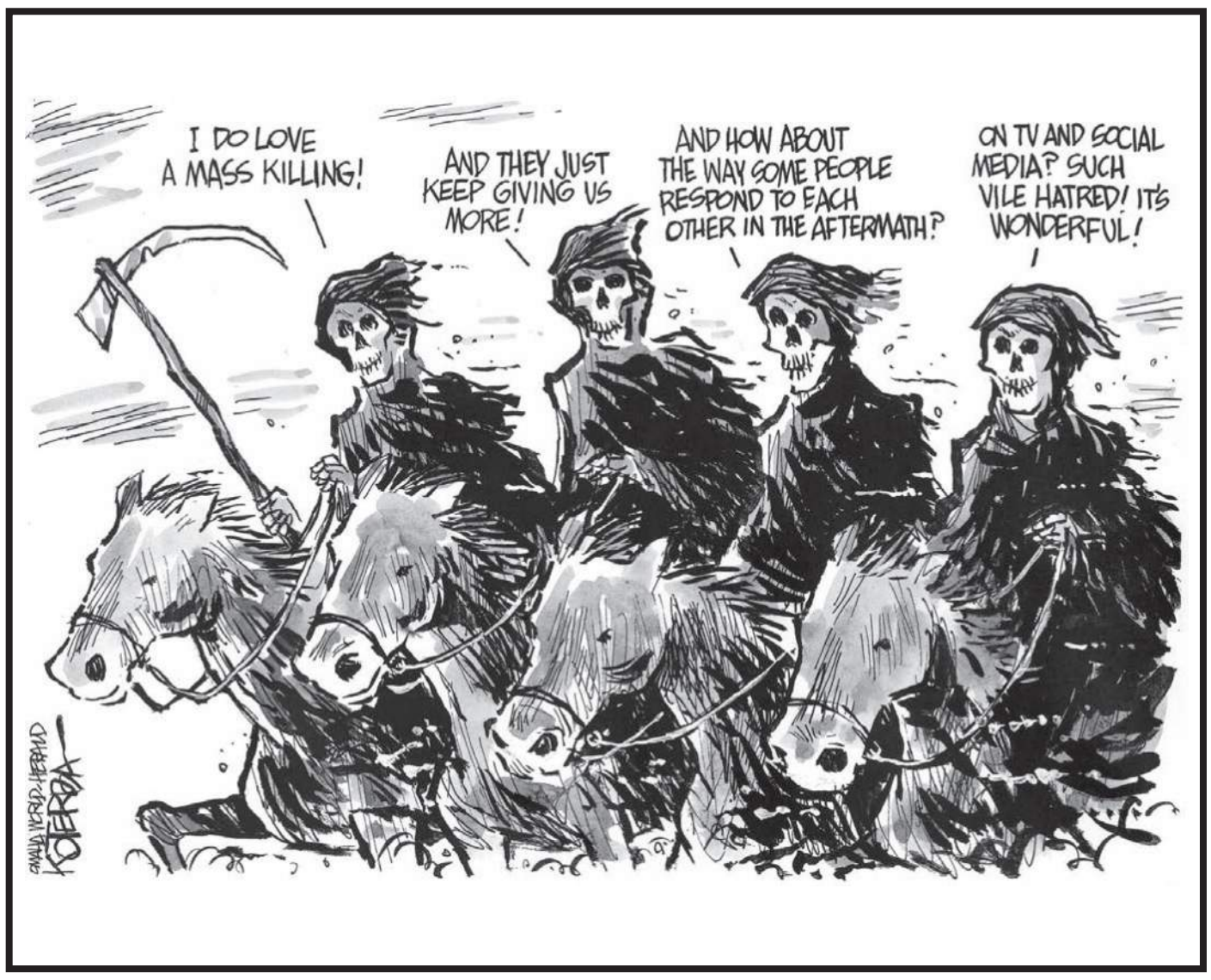
I DO LOVE A MASS KILLING!
AND THEY JUST KEEP GIVING US MORE!
AND HOW ABOUT THE WAY SOME PEOPLE RESPOND TO EACH OTHER IN THE AFTERMATH?
ON TV AND SOCIAL MEDIA? SUCH VILE HATRED! IT'S WONDERFUL!
KOTERBA

EDITORIAL

In Africa, Francis preached lessons for all nations

Pope Francis' first official visit to Africa, with stops in Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic, gave him a chance to address three of the continent's chief problems: corruption, chaos and presidents-for-life.

Kenya's main problem, even if one asks Kenyans, is considered to be widespread corruption, starting within government. The latest revelation was that the Kenyan army, in principle combating the al-Shabab Islamic extremist movement in Somalia and in Kenya itself with substantial U.S. support, was also engaged in a profitable smuggling relationship with the Somali group involving sugar and charcoal.

Uganda is hurt by the fact that President Yoweri Museveni is one of those African leaders who seems to be incapable of leaving office. He has been president since 1986, for 29 years—not much less than President Robert G. Mugabe's 35 years in Zimbabwe. Uganda is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious state of 39 million with reasonable economic prospects, but it has not benefited from the insistence of its leader's self-imagined indispensability.

The Central African Republic is perhaps the saddest of the three. It is a war zone, with 14,000 French and United Nations troops there to prevent recurrent mayhem between the Christian majority and Muslim minority. Pope Francis risked his life to go there, but once in Bangui, the capital, he circulated freely, with

See AFRICA on Next Page

Clearing the fog on military's plans for Marianas

By PETER J. PEREZ AND CINTA M. KAIPAT
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of public comments submitted by the Alternative Zero Coalition on the revised Divert Activities and Exercises Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

1. The revised draft EIS fails to meet EIS public outreach requirements.

The purpose of the National Environmental Protection Act is to promote informed decision-making by federal agencies by making "detailed information concerning significant environmental impacts" available to both agency leaders and the public. The proposed Divert Activities and Exercises are to take place in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands where English is a second language for the majority of the public. The majority of the permanent local population are ethnic Chamorro and Refaluwasch (Carolinians). Yet the revised draft EIS is provided only in the English language. This is despite numerous calls in recent years and even recent months for the agencies under the DOD to provide EIS documents in Chamorro and Carolinian languages. The USAF failed to fulfill its requirement under NEPA to inform the public by not providing translations of the EIS in local languages. The consequences of this failure is that many people in the community—those who cannot read English or who have difficulty reading and comprehending materials written in English—cannot understand and evaluate the implications and impacts of the proposed activities. They are effectively disenfranchised and excluded from the NEPA process. The EIS must be redone in local languages with implementation of an effective outreach program designed with measures in place to ensure success.

The intent and spirit of NEPA's public outreach requirements is to ensure the local government and public's full understanding of the nature and impacts of proposed activities and to encourage their participation in the decision-making process by providing their perspectives and concerns. It is contrary to this intent and spirit for the USAF to present information in such a way as to be misleading and to make their intent obscure. The USAF states in ES 5. Preferred Alternative, "The USAF does not identify or determine a preferred alternative in this Revised Draft EIS." This statement is misleading. It implies that the USAF does not have a preferred alternative when, in actuality, based on the public discussions held at the USAF open house on Saipan, it is clear that the USAF prefers Alternative 1 – Modified Saipan Alternative and Alternative 3 – Hybrid Modified Alternative in that order. By not stating a preferred alternative in the revised draft EIS, the USAF both avoids a more detailed discussion in the EIS as to why it prefers the Saipan alternatives and leads CNMI government leaders and the public to the false assumption that the USAF will accept the local community's strong preference for Alternative 2 – Modified Tinian Alternative. As a result, it can be expected that there will be less apparent public opposition to the USAF plans both in public debate and comments submitted. Whether this is intentional manipulation or not, the result is the same. The seriousness of the impacts to the CNMI community is downplayed when attention is diverted away from those alternatives that the community does not support. The USAF's choice of an alternative in its Record of Decision will be based in part on this community response. To comply with NEPA's intent and spirit, the EIS must be redone with the USAF's preferred alternatives clearly named and the reasons for the preference fully discussed.

2. The U.S. military has intentionally broken its large-scale development of the Mariana Islands and surrounding waters into the world's largest live-fire training range into multiple proposals with the resulting effect of misleading the public and minimizing apparent impacts.

Prior to the approval of the Mariana Islands Range Complex proposal in 2010, the U.S. military already held and occupied extensive areas of the Marianas. This includes fully half of the northern third of Guam along with huge areas in the south, including the island's only lake, most of the land around Apra Harbor, and numerous other large areas of Guam that, together, make up a third of Guam's entire land mass. Here in the CNMI, they held a long-term lease on two-thirds of Tinian, land around Tanapag Harbor and the entire island of Farallon de Medinilla.

The MIRC created a half-million-square nautical mile live-fire training range that surrounds Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan and all but the furthest islands to the north. The MIRC authorized live-fire on and in the land, air, and sea throughout the training range. It also expanded the small-arms scope of the Tinian ranges into four range complexes inclusive of artillery, grenade, and high-impact zones.

On July 30, 2015, the U.S. Navy announced its Record of Decision for another proposal—the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Area that doubled the area of the MIRC to nearly a million square nautical miles. It also greatly increased the level of the Navy's deadly sonar and live-fire ordnance testing and training in CNMI waters. The MITT plan allows the Navy to damage or kill over 6 square miles of endangered coral reefs plus an additional 20

See CLEARING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A few points of clarification

I read with considerable interest—but also concern because of numerous inaccuracies and inconsistencies—a recent (Dec. 3, 2015) article in the *Saipan Tribune* titled: "Demapan: CNMI is being lowballed with $23M offer."

For those who did not see the article, the premise was that "… the $23 million for live-fire ranges in the CNMI that was discussed in early negotiations is too low a figure compared to the reported $6 billion that Guam is getting in infrastructure projects." Further, "...these numbers were discussed during a Natural Resources Committee meeting where lawmakers mulled a Senate bill to prohibit the Department of Public Lands from leasing land for U.S. military purposes. Members of the House committee discussed Tuesday whether the bill would foreclose the opportunity to negotiate with the military." Finally, the article states: "According to Demapan, the 'highest' offer the CNMI government got from the US. military was $23 million" adding "...if the military had proposed a more formidable plan for Pagan it may have been accepted."

Here are the facts:

■ The move of approximately 5,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam is estimated to cost $8.7 billion. Of that amount, the government of Japan will fund $3.1 billion.

■ Over $900 million has been identified for the CNMI (on construction projects and for leasing on Tinian and Pagan). The government of Japan will fund over $300 million on Tinian.

■ We are exploring the potential for joint use projects in the CNMI that benefit both parties.

Ultimately our intent is to arrive at solutions that achieve mutually beneficial and sustainable growth, compatible/complementary presence, and shared interests with the people of CNMI.

Because we listened during the public comment period, we will be conducting additional studies in a number of areas of concern identified by the people of the CNMI and federal agencies. I will come to CNMI in early 2016 to brief the governor on the way forward.

We have a long way to go before reaching a Record of Decision on the CJMT EIS, and I encourage all in the CNMI to continue to work with the military as we continue to close gaps that might exist between us and find common ground that benefits all.

Craig Whelden
Executive Director
Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CLEARING

From Page 10

square miles of coral reef around FDM through the use of highly explosive bombs. It ups the rate of explosive bombing from 2,150 bombs per year to over 6,000 bombs per year, increasing the Navy's bombing of FDM by roughly 300 percent.

On Sept. 2, 2015, the Navy signed the Record of Decision for another proposal, the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation proposal, approving a new Marine Base in Guam, a new Live-Fire Training Range Complex, or LFTRC, and a separate hand-grenade range.

Another separate proposal is the CNMI Joint Military Training proposal that would allow the military to use two-thirds of Tinian for their second highest level of live-fire training range and to take the entire island of Pagan and use it for their highest level of live-fire training.

Taken together, these proposals surround the CNMI with live-fire ranges; in Guam to the south; Tinian in the west, FDM and Pagan to the north, and all around us on and in the ocean.

The proposed Divert Activities and Exercises is another U.S military expansion. Its primary purpose is training. It will move more land and airspace from the CNMI government's jurisdiction to the USAF.

The Divert Activities and Exercises EIS is presented independent of other training-related proposed and recently approved activities. Yet it is clearly and intimately related to them, particularly the MERC and MITT that will involve nearly a million square miles of ocean around the Marianas, large patches of airspace above and near CNMI islands, and live-fire aerial bombardment of FDM. In fact, while the EIS ignores this relationship, it inadvertently reveals this relationship when the EIS refers readers who want to understand how the Divert Activities and Exercises proposal affects other military training operations to the EIS documents of the MERC/MITT proposals.

The MIRC, MITT, Guam and CNMI Relocation, LFTRC, CJMT and Divert Activities and Exercises all contribute to the creation of the world's largest live-fire training range. Breaking them into separate activities with their own independent EIS disclosures has, for all intents and purposes, allowed the Navy, Air Force and Marines to circumvent the intent of the NEPA process. Public and government stakeholders were unaware of the full extent of the military's intentions. The cumulative impacts were thereby obscured. Decision makers in the U.S. military who approve each proposal do so based in part upon the feedback and comments of stakeholders—in this case, under-informed stakeholders.

The Divert Activities and Exercises must be abandoned and a new proposal drafted that accurately describes the U.S. military's large-scale live-fire training expansion in the Marianas so that stakeholders may understand and comment on the cumulative impacts as required by NEPA.

3. The proposed activities will have a negative impact on the local tourist industry.

The main economic engine of the CNMI is its tourist industry. Tourists come to the CNMI to see a group of Micronesian islands and to experience its land, waters and people. In many ways, the tourist experience is our product and its value depends upon a continuing positive visitor experience from the moment a tourist arrives in the CNMI to the moment that that tourist boards a plane home. Tourists choose their destinations based on many factors. We know from 40 years of interactions with our tourists that our history is important to them; i.e., our ancient history, our colonial period history, and our World War II history where our islands played a prominent role in Japanese and American history.

Anything that diminishes our image as a small Micronesian island damages our tourist product. Anything that destroys or diminishes our historic properties damages our tourist product.

The proposed activities will result in loss and damage to World War II historic areas, artifacts, landmarks, and buildings. They will change the initial impressions of tourists as they arrive at Saipan International Airport. The drive from the airport is currently along a green belt dotted with historic buildings. Visitors "feel" like they've arrived on a small Micronesian island. The Japanese buildings and bunkers provide a glimpse of World War II. The two alternatives that involve the use of land around Saipan's airport will change this aspect and initial experience. We will lose green areas to paved tarmac and parked military aircraft. We will lose peace and quiet to jet noise from military training exercises. Tourists will also suffer delays and added air travel time and expense as a result of commercial flights having to accommodate regular military aircraft use of our airport and airspace.

The proposed activities will not only damage our historic assets, but they are contrary to the intent of Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The CNMI community is overwhelmingly ethnic minorities and the CNMI is a low-income community with one of the highest levels of poverty in the United States. The proposed activities will put an unfair burden on our community.

Because the proposed activities will damage our historic properties and otherwise have a negative impact on the tourist experience when tourism is our primary industry and our main source of self-generated income, the proposed activities should not move forward.

4. The Tinian lease area is incorrectly excluded from consideration.

The northern two-thirds of Tinian currently under lease to the DoD was excluded from consideration as a potential divert airfield location because it lacks "existing infrastructure." This requirement of existing infrastructure is arbitrary. Infrastructure can be built by the USAF. Furthermore, use of the lease area for the divert airfield is an appropriate, productive use of the Tinian lease area. The area obviously has merit for use as an airfield since it includes the old World War II airfields. If the reason for the requirement of existing infrastructure is the cost of building such infrastructure, then it begs the question, "How important can the divert airport be for the USAF if it is not willing to pay the costs of renovating and providing infrastructure?" If it is not important enough to spend the money, then asking the CNMI to give up land for the divert project seems unreasonable. It is essentially asking the CNMI government to subsidize a USAF project that is not important enough for the USAF to spend its own, far greater financial resources on.

5. Alternative sites outside the CNMI are arbitrarily excluded.

The revised draft EIS states that a divert airfield is needed "...in the event of a disruption of operational capabilities at Andersen AFB or other western Pacific locations." This implies that there are other airfields in other western Pacific locations. The EIS needs to list all other Pacific locations, including non-USA locations and explain why each cannot meet the need. The EIS should also consider new alternative airfields that could potentially be built on foreign soil.

6. The USAF's justification for the Divert Activities and Exercises project is not compelling as most of the needs cited are already met. The project appears to be a desired but unnecessary expansion of existing capability.

■ Emergency response justification should be removed entirely. FAA Airport Sponsor Assurance C. 27 already authorizes the use of any of the CNMI's commercial airports in an emergency.

■ Divert landings already occur at A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam; Saipan International Airport, and Rota International Airport.

■ Currently, planned joint military exercises occur within the MIRC and Mariana Islands using Andersen AFB and the surrounding airspace and range area. It is unclear why it is necessary to also provide support from Saipan or Tinian.

■ Humanitarian airlift staging can already occur at Andersen AFB or A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam. FAA Airport Sponsor Assurance C. 27, allows for use of Saipan International Airport and Tinian International Airport as well.

■ The DoD has 30 million acres that it currently uses for training purposes.* It is difficult to imagine that they need to take additional land from the CNMI to meet its training land needs. The CNMI only has 177 square miles of land. Of this, the U.S. military already controls 30.4 square miles. This is in addition to one-third of Guam's entire landmass that is under military control.

7. The CNMI is a poor choice of location for staging a humanitarian aid effort.

While the need to support emergency humanitarian efforts is cited as justification for establishing a divert airfield in the CNMI, the CNMI has few local resources to support any significant emergency humanitarian aid effort. Guam, where there are far more of the materials, supplies and resources required and on hand for such an effort, is a far better choice. The CNMI can offer only limited support and, in fact, Rota, Tinian and Saipan airports are already available for humanitarian assistance via FAA Airport Sponsor Assurance C. 27.

Furthermore, the CNMI government is highly unlikely to deny use over the limits of C. 27 in a true emergency.

**Source: https://www.serdp-estcp.org/Program-Areas/Resource-Conservation-and-Climate-Change/Natural-Resources*

AFRICA

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light security, visiting a mosque as well as churches and meeting with imams and other Muslims as well as with Christians and their clergy.

In Kenya, Pope Francis preached honesty. In Uganda, he preached tolerance, addressing the country's occasional tendency to act against gays. In the Central African Republic, he urged peace between Christians and Muslims, who have been fighting for years.

His consistent message was that Christians and Muslims are brothers, should put down their arms and love one another. It is important for the other people of the world not to dismiss his plea, but to ask whether his message isn't applicable to their countries, too.

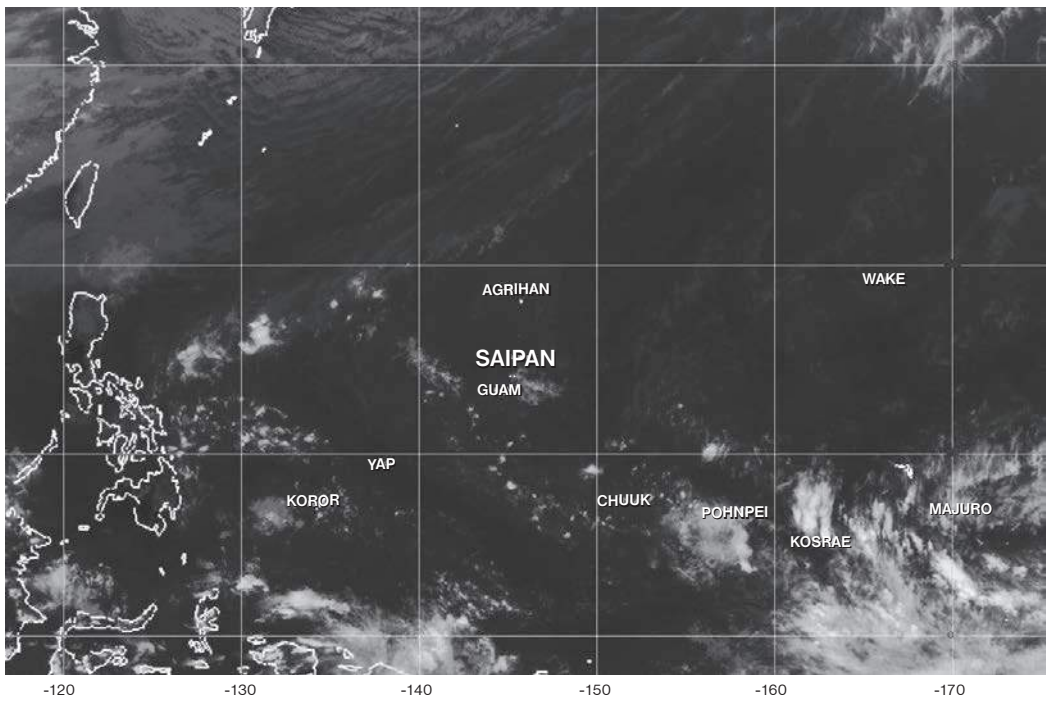
(c)2015 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 3N130E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei near 3N154E then heads southeastward to end near EQ173E. Unsettled weather is occurring over much of Micronesia from the Republic of Palau to Butaritari and Tarawa atolls. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over parts of Palau and Yap state within 120 miles of a line from 4N130E to 6N136E to 4N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 10N and 4N from 147E to 160E farther east. Numerous showers and isolated showers are occurring primarily north of Kosrae south of the Marshall Islands and over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls within 140 miles of a line from 6N160E to 5N168E to EQ175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with a cold front are present northwest of a line from 20N130E to 25N138E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands between 15N and 10N from 173E to the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼32
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Showers	▲55	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼56
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼76
Melbourne	Windy	▲93	▼60
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼69
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼39
Osaka	Sunny	▲59	▼41
Paris	Rain	▲53	▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲59	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲49	▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼35

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:31 AM	3:28 PM
Wednesday	4:20 AM	4:11 PM
Thursday	5:10 AM	4:57 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:55 AM	6:37 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

CULMINATION TRIP
Members of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter Class of 2015 pose with the chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dr. Robert Bley-Vroman, during their culmination trip to Hawaii last November. The tour was organized by former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, chairman and founder of PCF-Hawaii.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam contractor to pay $190K in unpaid fringe benefits

Able Industries of the Pacific, Inc., which used to be located in Tamuning, Guam, but has since closed, will pay $190,578 to 202 employees for unpaid fringe benefits required by the Service Contracts Act. The company has also been barred from bidding on any federal contracts for three years.

According to a U.S. Department of Labor news release, Able Industries failed to pay legally required health and welfare benefits to hundreds of employees who provided dining, janitorial and maintenance services at several facilities at Anderson Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam from 2011 to 2013, in violation of the Service Contract Act.

"Employers who contract with the federal government cannot circumvent or ignore their legal obligation to pay the contract's baseline minimum wages and benefits to their workers," said Terence Trotter, director of the Wage and Hour District Office in Honolulu. "Thanks to this settlement, employees will now receive their long overdue benefits. The fact that this contractor is now ineligible to bid on future contracts for three years should send a strong message to other employers hoping to secure work for the federal government- play by the rules, or face the consequences."

The McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of $2,500 to pay service employees in various classes no less than the wage rates and fringe benefits found prevailing in the locality, or the rates (including prospective increases) contained in a predecessor contractor's collective bargaining agreement. The Department of Labor issues wage determinations on a contract-by-contract basis in response to specific requests from contracting agencies.

For more information about federal wage laws administered by the Wage and Hour Division, call the agency's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Information also is available at http://www.dol.gov/whd. ***(USDOL)***

Milestone hazard compliance for couple of FSM companies

KOSRAE, Federated States of Micronesia—The Raimond Company and Wawa Chips have become the first two food producers in Federated States of Micronesia to open factories that comply with an international standard for hazard analysis and control.

Based in Kosrae State, the Raimond Company in Tafunsek, which produces gluten-free taro flour, and Wawa Chips in Lelu, which makes banana chips, are businesses supported by the European Union's Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade Project, which is implemented by the Pacific Community.

The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points compliance is an internationally recognized standard that emphasizes hygienic food preparation and is crucial for opening up market access for companies, as consumers are more confident in the way their products are prepared.

SPC and the EU have assisted Raimond Company and Wawa Chips in building a factory, providing equipment, facility improvement as well as designing and printing of packaging materials amounting to $91, 000.

Technical assistance has also been provided through business management training, food safety programs and processing methods to gain quality and safe products.

In addition to these two companies in Kosrae, the IACT project also assists an enterprise in the Marshall Islands—Tobolar Processing Facility—that has now also become compliant as well, making these the first three locally-owned HACCP compliant enterprises in the northern Pacific region.

Speaking at their factory opening, Wawa Chips managing director George Youngstrom said this milestone achievement was the result of working together toward a common goal.

Youngstrom added that without a coordinated effort by various supporting agencies, this HACCP-compliant processing center could not have been realized.

The HACCP compliance of the Kosraean companies boasts its positioning in import substitution, utilizing local produce such as taro, a gluten free product in the face of increasing non-communicable diseases in the Pacific. Similarly, the production of banana chips is better alternative to imported salty snacks.

"We are today witnessing the results of hard work, commitment and dedication of both factory owners and their families. This successful output has been a collaborated effort between them, the Department of Agriculture and Trade at Ministry of Resource and Economic Affairs, and the European Union supported IACT Project for the past three years," Pacific Community's IACT Project official Apiame Cegumalua said.

The Kosraean Director of Resources and Economic Affairs, Lyndon Cornelius, officiated at the opening ceremony. ***(SPC)***

DoD releases $309M Japan contribution to build Guam Marine base

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced Friday that the Department of Defense has released $309,000,000 for the first phase of construction of a Marine Corps Base at Finegayan, Guam.

These funds were contributed from the Government of Japan as part of its contributions for the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The projects have already been authorized in previous defense authorization bills but funding was not released because of restrictions put in place by the Senate.

Bordallo worked with her colleagues to remove these restrictions so Government of Japan funds could be used to support the realignment effort. Contracts for these projects have not yet been awarded and the DoD will put out bids through the Multiple Award Construction Contracts contract process.

The funds released will be used for site and grade preparation, electrical, mechanical, and water and wastewater utilities upgrades, and construction of roadways and sidewalks leading to Finegayan. Three sites will also be developed to provide for green waste processing and recycling facilities, along with infiltration ponds and storm water conveyance systems to mitigate environmental impacts of construction.

"The release of these funds continues to underscore the progress that we continue to make with the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam, and it demonstrates our country's commitment to this critical national and regional security endeavor," said Bordallo. "These funds will be used for phase one of building the new Marine Corps Base in Finegayan, which include site and utilities improvements in the area as well as site preparation and environmental mitigation. Funding for these projects were contributed by the Government of Japan and previously authorized by Congress; however the DoD could not move forward with releasing these funds until it met the requirements of restrictions imposed by the Senate. I look forward to contracts for these projects being awarded, which will inject millions of dollars in needed capital into our island's economy." ***(PR)***

Australia, Pacific Islands update maritime boundaries

SYDNEY, Australia—Representatives of 12 Pacific Island countries are meeting in Sydney this week with maritime experts from Australia and the Pacific Community to negotiate maritime boundary agreements and refine their claims to areas of continental shelf.

Pacific Island countries have limited land areas but vast space entitlements in the Pacific Ocean, leading Pacific leaders to coin the phrase "Large Ocean Island States."

Delimiting maritime zones is an important process for countries to secure their rights over ocean space and marine resources, including fisheries and seabed minerals.

The hands-on workshop will enable the technical and legal teams from each country to work with a group of advisers from SPC, Geoscience Australia, the University of Sydney, the Australian Attorney-General's Department, the Commonwealth Secretariat, GRID-Arendal and the Forum Fisheries Agency.

"This workshop will assist Pacific Island states to establish their full entitlements to maritime zones in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and review their maritime zones legislation," the manager of Oceans and Coastal Geoscience for the Pacific Community, Jens Kruger, said.

"Two claims to areas of extended continental shelf are currently being considered by the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, with another seven in the queue. Four Pacific countries have enacted new maritime zones legislation, and six states have submitted information on the limits of their maritime zones with the UN."

"The Pacific is really leading the world in this area," Professor Elaine Baker, chair of Marine Science at the University of Sydney, noted. "Having established their maritime entitlements, many of the country teams are now developing the tools to manage their marine spaces effectively. This is something that many developed countries are only just beginning to grapple with."

This is the 14th maritime boundaries workshop SPC has held for Pacific Island countries since 2002, in conjunction with a range of other experts.

"The workshops have enabled Tuvalu to conclude our maritime boundary agreements with our neighbors and to declare the limits of each of our maritime zones," Tuvalu's Director of Lands and Survey and Chair of the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council, Faatasi Malaloga, said. "We can now focus on the management of Tuvalu's marine resources."

These workshops continue to be funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This workshop is the latest example of the technical cooperation between SPC and the Government of Australia and demonstrates Australia's ongoing commitment to achieving sustainable development results that make a difference to the lives of Pacific Island people. ***(SPC)***

Business

Trademarked: Trump makes money off the name 'Central Park'

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump is arguably New York City's most famous resident, and he's made some of his money off the name of one of the city's most famous public landmarks: Central Park.

The leading Republican presidential candidate first applied for a trademark to use the words "Central Park" on merchandise more than two decades ago, when the park had a far less glamorous reputation than it does today. Since then, Trump has used the nonexclusive trademark to brand furniture, chandeliers, pillows and even key chains.

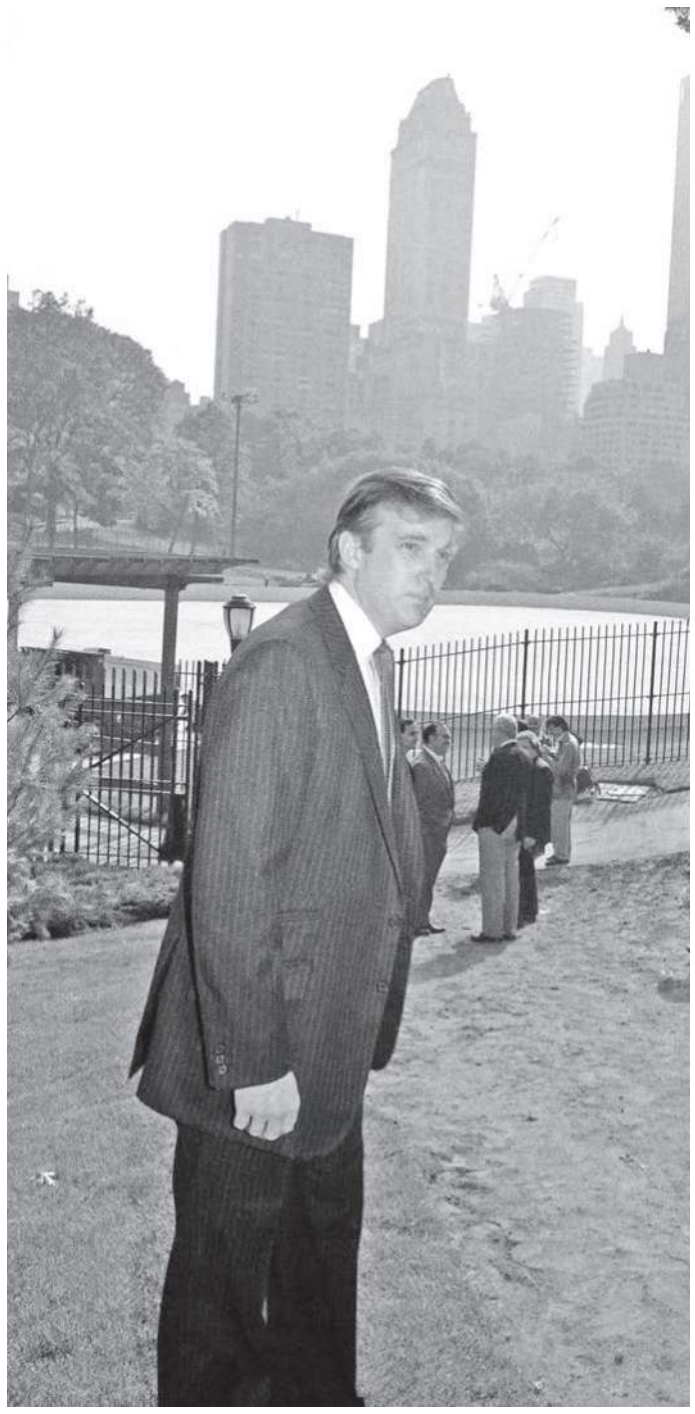
A Trump spokesman declined to say how much Trump has earned from the trademark, but noted the developer's deep connections to the park. Trump once owned the Plaza Hotel along Central Park South, operates a skyscraper hotel overlooking the park and famously renovated the park's once-downtrodden ice rink.

"Mr. Trump, over the course of his career, has owned and developed some of the most iconic buildings in the city, many of which ... sit only footsteps away from Central Park," said Alan Garten, executive vice president and general counsel to The Trump Organization.

Since it is a public space, no one can put an exclusive trademark on the words "Central Park." But, as first reported by cable news channel NY1, records show that Trump is the single biggest private, for-profit holder of Central Park trademarks on specific goods.

It was undeniably a savvy move.

His first application came in 1991, when the city's violent crime rate was near its height and the park often conjured up fears of urban danger. There were 2,154 murders in the city that year, as opposed to 328 last year, and 1991 was just two years removed from the Central Park jogger case in which a woman was attacked and raped while running through the park.



AP

In this Oct. 23, 1986, file photo, Donald Trump is photographed in New York's Central Park, in front of the Wollman Skating Rink, which he offered to rebuild after the city's renovation effort had come to a standstill.

According to the records kept by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Trump first received permission to use Central Park for parking garage services, and later expanded the trademark as the park became synonymous with the high-priced real estate that surrounds it in a safer, more affluent New York.

A 2007 trademark allowed him to put the park's name on dozens of Trump-branded furniture and lighting options. Beds, tables, desks, lamps, flashlights, picture frames and throw pillows all bore the names "Central Park" and "Donald Trump." A glossy, 44-page furniture catalog boasted photos of the "elegant and rich" furnishings with stylized shots of the park and Trump.

Many of Trump's Central Park products are not currently in production, but they can be found in some discount stores and gift shops.

The park isn't the only New York-area landmark on which Trump has filed a trademark. He owns one for "Westchester," the county north of the city, that was the namesake of a furniture line, and one for "Fifth Avenue," to label items within his casino business.

Trademark experts say it's difficult to precisely gauge how much a name is worth.

"The question would be, how much more likely is someone to buy something called 'Central Park' over the name of some other landmark?" said June Besek, a Columbia Law School professor with an expertise on intellectual property issues. "But if people have a positive association with 'Central Park'—or a positive association with simply 'Trump'—that would clearly be worth something."

The park is jointly operated by the city and the private Central Park Conservancy. Neither has any ability to revoke a trademark from Trump or any other owner. The nonprofit conservancy sells items such as sweat shirts and snow globes, which, unlike Trump's products, can carry the official park logo.

"Nobody has ownership of the words 'Central Park.' It is a public space, with a city-owned logo," said Monica Klein, a spokeswoman for Mayor Bill de Blasio. "When individuals or companies attempt to infringe on city-owned trademarks, we take appropriate legal actions."

The city owns the rights to more than 200 trademarks and stepped up its efforts to acquire new ones and protect existing ones, including the city's police and fire departments, after demand for their merchandise grew dramatically after the Sept. 11 attacks.

When Trump launched his presidential campaign in June with a speech in which he said Mexican immigrants were "bringing drugs" and were "rapists," the city reviewed millions of dollars' worth of contracts it has with him, including for a golf course and skating rinks, but found no legal way to cancel them.

De Blasio, a Democrat, has said he wouldn't do any new business with Trump.

What to do about terrible new boss?

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: A few months ago, my colleagues and I got a new manager who makes our lives a living hell. "Kristen" has no management experience and nitpicks everything we do. She gets angry about small stuff and talks to us like we're in third grade. She has also allowed the office to get disgustingly filthy.

As a supervisor, Kristen is supposed to divide her time between doing administrative work and serving customers. However, she has started leaving several hours early every day without doing any customer service. Since she prepares the payroll, she continues to pay herself for complete workdays.

We would like to report Kristen for falsifying records, but we're concerned about losing our jobs. Although our small business was recently purchased by a very large company, Kristen will still be our manager. How should we handle this?

A: Complaining about the boss is always risky, so you must weigh the benefits of informing against the possible cost. Fortunately, the recent acquisition may provide a solution. Virtually every large company has a human resources department, so your new HR manager could be the ideal audience for this information.

If you take this step, present your case as a group, since that will increase the impact while reducing the risk. Airing a long list of grievances might cause management to question your motives, so focus only on the payroll issue without mentioning Kristen's annoying habits. Before making this report, get assurances that your identities will be kept confidential.

But if a personal presentation might threaten your job security, another option is to send an anonymous account of Kristen's inaccurate record-keeping. While nameless complaints about interpersonal issues are typically disregarded, descriptions of financial wrongdoing are much more likely to be investigated.

Q: Shortly after accepting a new management position, I heard rumors that one staff member, "Molly," is concerned about working for me. In my last job with this company, I was thrown into managing a retail store during the holiday season. Because I was still learning the ropes, everything was complete chaos. Unfortunately, Molly worked there for a few months.

Since that time, I have become a much better manager. However, Molly has apparently told other employees about her previous bad experience with me. I'm concerned she may decide to leave and encourage others to do the same. How can I convince her to stay?

A: Considering that this is grapevine information, you don't want to overreact, but you shouldn't ignore the warning either. Instead of dwelling on earlier unpleasantness, try using the previous episode as a springboard to discussing the present.

For example: "Molly, I'm really pleased that you're here, because I was impressed when we worked together before. That holiday season was a crazy time for me, since I had just joined the company. Fortunately, I've learned a lot since then. I'm looking forward to working with you again and would certainly like to hear any suggestions you may have."

Your goal is to briefly acknowledge past issues while taking steps to establish positive, open communication. Since Molly only knew you for a short time, changing her opinion should not be too difficult.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lufthansa passenger threatens to open plane door

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—A man aboard a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt to Belgrade has been arrested Sunday after threatening to open a plane door during the flight, Serbian authorities said. Passengers quoted by Belgrade media said he banged on a cockpit door threatening to bring down the plane while it was flying over Austria if he was not allowed inside. Lufthansa said the cabin crew and passengers on Flight 1406 managed to restrain him for the rest of the journey, adding that the plane doors can't be opened during a flight anyway. Lufthansa spokesman Andreas Bartels said the plane landed safely in Belgrade and the passenger was handed over to local authorities.

Greek Parliament passes 2016 budget

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's Parliament has approved the 2016 budget that includes deep spending cuts and tax hikes amid economic recession. The budget passed early Sunday, 153-145, with 2 lawmakers absent in the 300-member Parliament. The vote was strictly along partisan lines. The government forecasts zero economic growth this year and a contraction of 0.7 percent in 2016. Earlier, it had predicted declines of 2.3 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras told Parliament that growth would resume in the second half of 2016 and a strong tourist season could avoid a recession altogether. Despite spending cuts of around 2 billion euros ($2.18 billion) and a similar amount in tax hikes, debt is forecast to grow to 327.6 billion euros ($356 billion) or 187.8 percent of GDP from 180.2 percent in 2015.

United Auto Workers win vote at Volkswagen's lone US plant

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—The United Auto Workers union has gained a significant first victory at a foreign-owned automaker in the South, easily winning a vote by skilled-trades workers at Volkswagen's lone U.S. factory to have the UAW negotiate their collective bargaining agreements. The workers who repair and maintain machinery and robots at the German automaker's plant in Chattanooga voted 108-44 for UAW representation over two days ending Friday. Volkswagen objected to the new vote favoring the UAW to represent just 162 skilled-trades workers, arguing that all of the plant's 1,400 blue-collar workers should have a say over union issues. The German automaker said it plans to appeal the ruling allowing the vote to the full National Labor Relations Board.

Nation

Pentagon chief to military: Open all combat jobs to women

WASHINGTON (AP)—Removing the final barriers that kept women from serving in combat, Defense Secretary Ash Carter has ordered the military to open all military jobs to women, including the most dangerous commando posts.

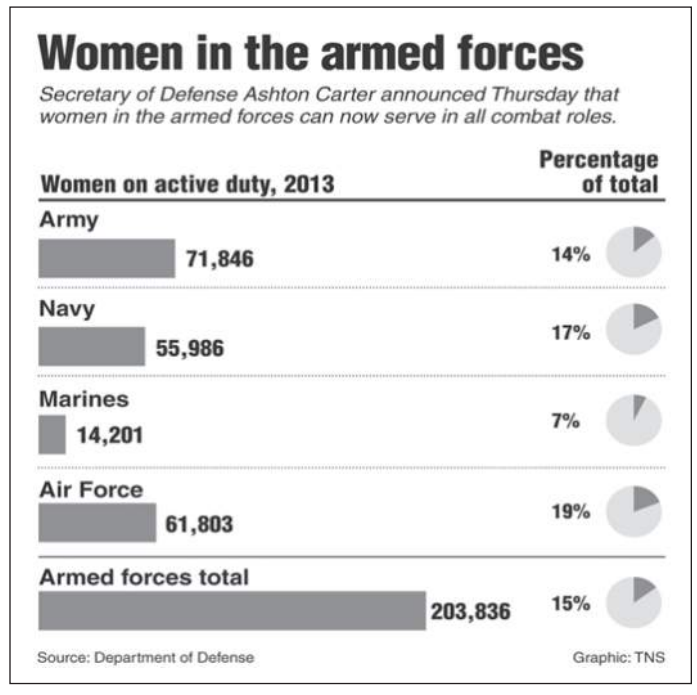
The historic decision Thursday is a formal recognition that thousands of women have fought—and many were wounded or killed—in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. But it's uncertain how many will actually want to compete for some of the more grueling Army and Marine Corps infantry posts or for spots on the high-risk special operations teams.

Carter's move also is a direct rebuff to the Marine Corps, which asked for an exception to prevent women from serving in certain infantry and combat jobs.

"We are a joint force, and I have decided to make a decision which applies to the entire force," Carter told a news conference.

AP

Defense Secretary Ash Carter pauses during a news conference at the Pentagon, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, where he announced that he has ordered the military to open all combat jobs to women, and is giving the armed services until Jan. 1 to submit plans to make the historic changes.



But he acknowledged some concerns. "Implementation won't happen overnight. And while at the end of the day this will make us a better and stronger force, there still will be problems to fix and challenges to overcome. We shouldn't diminish that."

Carter said the military can no longer afford to exclude half the population from high-risk military posts. He said that any man or woman who meets the standards should be able to serve, and he gave the armed services 30 days to submit plans to make the change.

Carter's order opens the final 10 percent of military positions to women - a total of about 220,000 jobs. And it allows them to serve in the most demanding and difficult jobs, including as special operations forces, such as the Army Delta units and Navy SEALs.

On Friday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the White House would work with Congress to consider changing the selective service law that would make women eligible for the draft.

In recent years, women have steadily moved into many jobs previously open only to men, including on Navy submarines, in Army artillery units, and as Night Stalkers, the elite special operations helicopter crews, best known for flying the Navy SEALS into Osama bin Laden's compound in 2011. And three women became the first to take and pass the Army's difficult Ranger course.

The reactions have been a bit mixed. In a survey disclosed early last year, the Army found that less than 8 percent of women soldiers said they'd like to move into one of the combat posts. And it also revealed that soldiers of both genders were nervous about women entering combat jobs, with men worried that unit readiness would be degraded and women worried they would be seen as getting a job because of their gender and not their qualifications.

As women worked to pass the Navy's Riverine course for the first time, they said they were happy to get a chance to serve in combat. And the men in the course largely shrugged, saying as long as the women could do the same tasks and physical training, it wasn't a big deal.

Jimmy Carter says his latest brain scan shows no cancer

Carter

ATLANTA (AP)—Jimmy Carter inspired pronouncements of answered prayers Sunday, revealing that his latest brain scan showed no signs of cancer four months after the former president announced that melanoma had spread to his brain and put himself "in the hands of God."

Carter first announced the news at the small church where he frequently teaches Sunday school in his hometown of Plains, Georgia, and then in a two-sentence written statement as word spread from Maranatha Baptist Church.

Carter always starts his lessons with a brief update on his recent activities. This week, that included a visit to his doctor to learn the results of an MRI brain scan. Previous tests found four lesions on his brain were still there but had responded to an August radiation treatment and regular doses of a recently approved drug called Keytruda to help his body seek out any new cancer cells.

"And when I went this week, they didn't find any cancer at all," Carter said, prompting gasps and applause from the congregation as he smiled slightly. "So I have good news."

Such a clean scan for a melanoma patient would have been rare as recently as five years ago, experts on the disease said. Keytruda and other drugs classified as "immunotherapy" sometimes combined with radiation have dramatically changed success at treating melanoma, said Dr. Keith Flaherty, a melanoma specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital's Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies who is not involved in Carter's treatment.

"There's no question it's very positive," Flaherty said. "It really is an uncommon thing to have lesions of any size resolved so completely and so quickly."

It's not clear what other scans Carter's doctors at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute have performed. A spokesman declined comment Sunday due to patient privacy and Carter only mentioned a brain scan.

Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, deputy chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society, said doctors evaluating melanoma patients will use scans of body parts beyond where the disease has occurred to ensure it has not spread.

"For today, the news cannot be better," Lichtenfeld said. "Circumstances may change over time or he may be in a situation where it does not recur for many years or at all."

Carter said he will continue receiving doses of Keytruda every three weeks. That's typical for patients taking the drug without side effects, said Dr. Douglas Johnson, a melanoma specialist at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center who is not involved with Carter's treatment.

San Bernardino mourns its dead, calls for unity, not rancor

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—At a church, a mosque, a makeshift street-corner memorial and other sites, they gathered Sunday to mourn the 14 victims of the San Bernardino massacre and lament that the community has now been added to the tragic list of U.S. cities scarred by terrible violence.

Residents struggled to come to terms with the violence and hoped the community would unite in mourning and not be divided by the disclosure that the killers were a religious Muslim couple.

"It's unfortunate that we're on this list now, a list like Newtown, Aurora and others where such tragic events occurred," Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., told a crowd at a mosque. "It's not how I want San Bernardino remembered."

In the wake of the attack, President Barack Obama delivered a prime-time address, telling the nation the attack was an "act of terrorism designed to kill innocent people." While there was no evidence the shooters were directed by a terror network overseas or were part of a broader plot, "the two of them had gone down the dark path of radicalization," he said.

Investigators were looking into what led Tashfeen Malik and Syed Farook to attack the gathering of Farook's co-workers on Wednesday. Authorities were trying to determine if Malik, who was born in Pakistan and spent considerable time in Saudi Arabia, radicalized her American-born husband, Farook, and was the driving force behind the rampage, two officials said Sunday.

That possibility emerged late last week when it was disclosed that Malik had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in a Facebook post about the time of the bloodbath at a holiday luncheon. Malik, 29, and Farook, 28, were killed in a furious shootout with police hours after the attack.

Obama said Sunday, "We cannot turn against one another," but he also said radicalism has spread into some Muslim communities and has become a problem that Muslim leaders "must confront without excuse."

On Sunday, scores of mourners, including members of the Muslim community, visited a growing memorial on a corner near the social service center where the shooting took place. There were American flags, a poster that read "Pray for the world," balloons, candles and cards. Many said they hoped the community would pull together.

Obama: US will defeat terror threat's new phase

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rare Oval Office address, President Barack Obama vowed Sunday night the U.S. will overcome a new phase of the terror threat that seeks to "poison the minds" of people here and around the world, as he sought to reassure Americans shaken by recent attacks in Paris and California.

"I know that after so much war, many Americans are asking whether we are confronted by a cancer that has no immediate cure," he said, speaking from a lectern in his West Wing office. "The threat from terrorism is real, but we will overcome it," he declared.

The president's speech followed Wednesday's shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people and wounded 21. Authorities say a couple carried out the attack and the wife pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and its leader in a Facebook post.

Obama said that while there was no evidence the shooters were directed by a terror network overseas or part of a broader plot, "the two of them had gone down the dark path of radicalization."

"This was an act of terrorism designed to kill innocent people," he said in the 13-minute address.

In speaking from the Oval Office, Obama turned to a tool of the presidency that he has used infrequently. His decision to speak in prime time reflected the White House's concern that his message on the recent attacks hasn't broken through, particularly in the midst of a heated presidential campaign.

Yet Obama's speech was likely to leave his critics unsatisfied. He announced no significant shift in U.S. strategy and offered no new policy prescriptions for defeating IS, underscoring both his confidence in his current approach and the lack of easy options for countering the extremist group.

"Nothing that happened in the speech tonight is going to assuage people's fears," Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican presidential candidate, said on Fox News.

Asia

Indian businessman hosts wedding for 151 couples

SURAT, India (AP)—With the brides dressed in traditional red and gold embroidered saris and the grooms wearing long tunics and turbans, 151 young couples tied the knot at a mass wedding in the western Indian state of Gujarat on Sunday.

The nuptials were hosted by Mahesh Savani, an Indian diamond trader who has been paying for the weddings of fatherless women in the city of Surat for several years.

"Only someone who has lost her father can understand how much a girl needs her dad on her wedding day," said Vimla Koringa, 27, as she waited for her wedding ceremony to begin.

Savani said he first stepped in to play the role of the father in 2008, when one of his employees died a few days before the weddings of his two daughters.

Every year since then, Savani has paid for the weddings of young women from poor families who have lost their fathers.

Weddings in India are expensive affairs, with the bride's family traditionally expected to pay the groom a large dowry of cash and gifts. Hundreds of people, mostly family members and neighbors of the couple, are hosted at lavish meals over a number of days, adding to the cost.

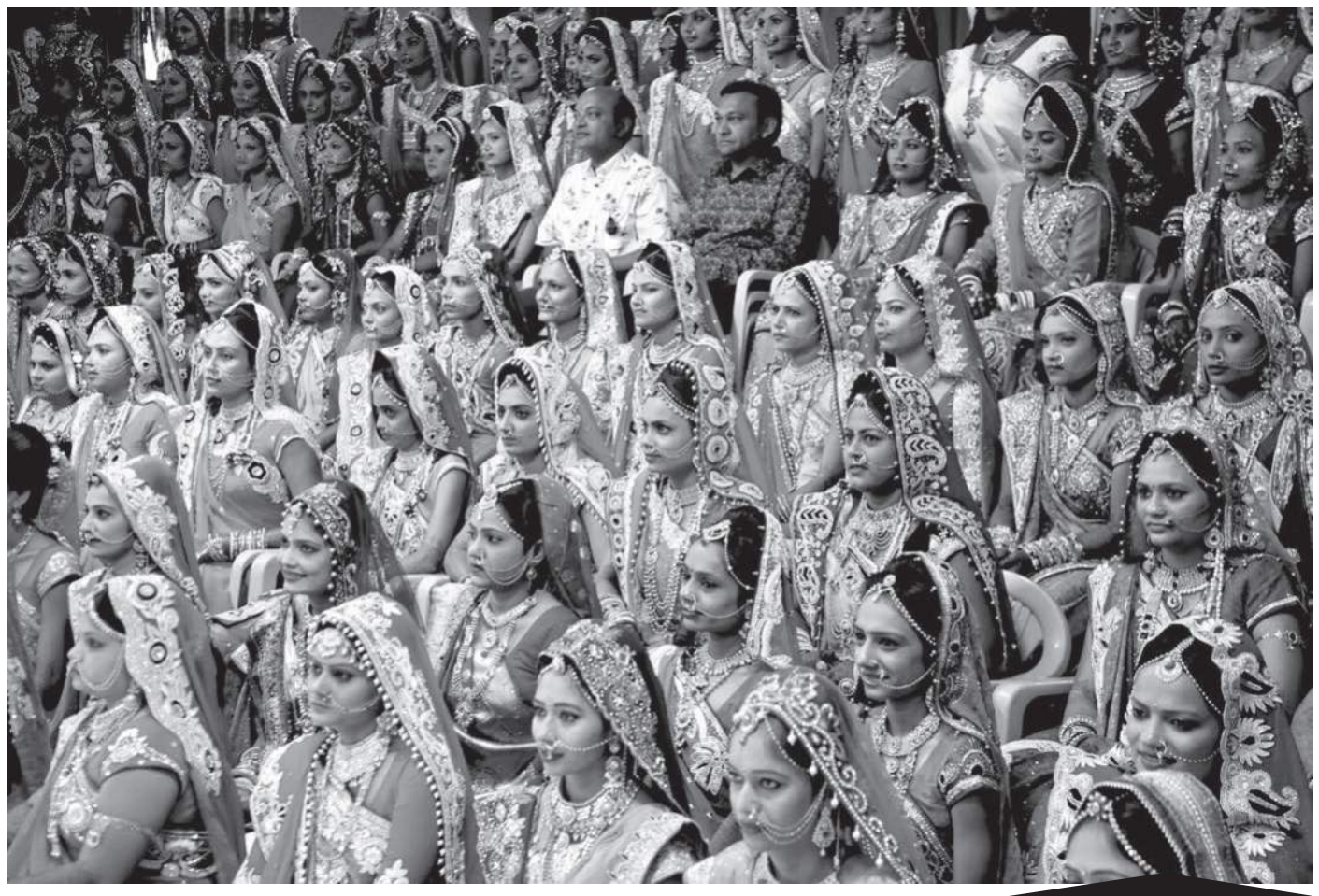
Savani said the wedding and gifts for the 151 couples would cost more than 50 million rupees ($750,000), with around 100,000 guests joining in the three days of festivities that ended Sunday. The sprawling school ground where the mass wedding was held was decorated with flowers and lights.

"I see this as something sacred, so I am not counting the expense," Savani said.

The businessman, who has made his fortune in diamond trading and real estate, said he saw himself as a "foster father" to the young women. He gave each of the brides gold jewelry, clothes, and pots and pans to set up her new home, much like the dowry given in traditional Indian weddings.

The brides praised Savani's efforts.

"Ever since my father died two years ago, my mother has worried about my wedding and how to raise money for the expenses," said 23-year-old Meetal Gondalia. "Savani Papa has eased all her worries."



AP

Indian diamond trader Mahesh Savani, top center wearing white, poses for a group photo along with brides before mass wedding hosted by him in Surat, India, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.

Taliban leader denies being wounded in internal dispute

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor has released a rare audio recording in which he denies claims by an Afghan official that he was wounded in a shootout during a meeting with other commanders in Pakistan last week.

In a 17-minute audio recording sent to media by the Taliban late Saturday, Mansoor dismissed what he called "baseless claims" that were "part of the agenda of the enemy." The Taliban had earlier sent The Associated Press a two-minute version of the recording.

The voice resembled that in previous recordings issued by Mansoor, who succeeded longtime Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar after his death was announced last summer. Mansoor has since faced internal challenges to his leadership, including by a breakaway faction that has battled fighters loyal to him.

"I haven't seen Kuchlak in years," he said, referring to an area near the Pakistani city of Quetta where the dispute was said to have taken place. He ordered his fighters to pay no heed to "baseless rumors" and to continue waging jihad, or holy war, against the Afghan government.

The audio message was released two days after Sultan Faizy, the spokesman for Afghanistan's First Vice President Abdul Rasheed Dostum, claimed that Mansoor was wounded in a firefight that broke out at a gathering of Taliban figures in Pakistan. He said the incident took place in the home of Mullah Abdullah Sarhadi, a former Taliban official, and that six Taliban figures, including Sarhadi, were killed.

"I am safe and my colleagues are safe. I am among my colleagues," Mansoor said, adding that he had not wanted to release the audio recording but was convinced to do so by his aides.

The Afghan government's announcement last summer that Mullah Omar had died nearly two years earlier in Pakistan derailed nascent peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban that had been brokered by Islamabad.

In the recording, Mansoor insisted the Taliban would continue fighting until they established "Islamic government" in Afghanistan and would resist outside pressure to reach a political settlement.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan according to a harsh interpretation of Islamic law until the group was toppled by a U.S.-led invasion following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Mansoor established the timing of the recording by referring to a battle between Afghan forces and the Taliban in Wardak province on Friday which killed a number of civilians. He expressed condolences to those killed and wished a swift recovery for civilians who were wounded.

Australian who joined Kurdish forces in Syria is sent home

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—An Australian who joined Kurdish forces in their fight against Islamic State militants in Syria has returned to Australia where he was questioned by police after being deported from Germany.

Ashley Dyball, 23, was met by Australian Federal Police at Melbourne Airport late Sunday night and interviewed for four hours before he was released to his family early Monday morning.

His lawyer Jessie Smith told Australian Broadcasting Corp. that Dyball was interviewed and "released without charge pending further inquiry."

Australian Federal Police said in a statement: "The public can rest assured that any Australian who is identified as a threat to security will be investigated by the relevant agencies."

Dyball had traveled to the Middle East in May to join Kurdish forces, known by the acronym YPG, despite Australian government warnings that it was an offense for Australian citizens to involve themselves in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

Dyball's mother Julia Dyball told reporters at the airport on Monday that her son was a hero who had risked his own life by defusing land mines.

"Countless people and children that have been killed by land mines and I don't see what's so criminal about dismantling land mines so people can return home," Julia Dyball said.

Ashley Dyball was also welcomed at the airport by the parents of Reece Harding, a 23-year-old Australian who died in June when he stepped on a land mine in Syria where he had been fighting Islamic State militants with Kurdish forces for two months.

Harding's mother Michelle Harding said Ashley Dyball should not be charged.

"When they went over there, they knew the laws were in place but thought they were for terrorists," Michelle Harding said.

ABC reported Ashley Dyball had been taking a break from the battle field when he traveled to Germany and was deported because of his links to Kurdish militias.

A 28-year-old Melbourne man Jamie Williams has been charged with preparing to travel to a foreign country in order to commit a hostile act after he tried to leave Australia a year ago allegedly to join Kurdish fighters in Syria.

Australia to invest $800 million in boosting innovation

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's government announced new economic policies Monday aimed at attracting entrepreneurs from abroad and promoting innovation in an economy that has slowed after a mining boom.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said his government will invest 1.1 billion Australian dollars ($800 million) in creating incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship and promoting the study of science, mathematics and computing in schools.

It is Turnbull's first major economic policy announcement since he ousted Tony Abbott as prime minister in a surprise September ballot of ruling party lawmakers.

The government will introduce a new class of visa for entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and financial backing to develop their businesses in Australia.

Foreign students who graduate from Australian universities with specialized doctorate and masters qualifications in science, technology, engineering or mathematics would be assisted to become permanent residents of Australia.

The government would also reform solvency laws. The current penalty period for bankrupts would be reduced from three years to one year. Company directors would also be given more protections from being held personally liable for a failed business, striking a new balance between encouraging entrepreneurship and protecting creditors.

The government plans to introduce new laws that would enable companies to access crowd-sourced equity funding to develop innovative business plans. Early stage investors in startups would be provided with tax concessions.

It said wants to encourage an "ideas boom" by promoting collaboration between business, universities and the research industry.

The government plans to explain next week how the policies will be funded as part of an update of Australia's worsening budget position. Low prices for key commodity exports including iron ore and coal which reflect China's slowdown have hit Australia's coffers hard.

Turnbull said appetite for risk in Australia was lower than in comparable countries. The study of science, math and computing in Australian high schools was declining, he said.

World

Climate talks shift from binding targets to 'name and shame'

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—It's clear at this point that even if the international climate accord being negotiated in suburban Paris becomes legally binding, it won't include punitive measures like trade sanctions or embargoes on straggler countries that fail to meet their commitments.

The only penalty for falling short on efforts to fight global warming would be failing in front of the whole world to achieve their goals.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing, many analysts say. In international diplomacy, peer pressure and the risk of losing face can be powerful motivations for a country to keep a promise, particularly on a high-profile issue like climate change.

"Meeting national emissions pledges will emerge as a key measure of international moral and diplomatic standing after a Paris agreement, with countries reluctant to flout their targets and risk being treated as pariahs," said Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton White House climate adviser.

Some countries led by the European Union still insist that governments accept legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in the Paris agreement, which is supposed to be adopted at the end of this week. But that's a no-go for the U.S. for political reasons. So the negotiations are increasingly focused on creating transparency rules to determine whether countries actually follow through on their pledges.

The idea is to ensure that even if the targets aren't binding internationally, countries would have a binding obligation to report on whether they are achieving their national goals, which could turn into a potentially humiliating experience if they're not.

"Three words: name and shame," said Li Shuo, a climate policy expert at Greenpeace China.

Essentially, the system that is emerging is one with clear rules but no mechanism to punish those who break them, like playing a soccer match without a referee.

AP

Representatives of NGOs wear elephant masks and hold banner at the COP21, United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Le Bourget north of Paris, Friday, Dec. 4, 2015.

"Everything happens in the open in the stadium," Li said. "So if someone fouls another player, even if he doesn't get a red card, he will be booed by the audience."

So does that actually work in international relations? Isn't the incentive to ignore the rules, if it entails some competitive advantage, greater than the fear of being publicly called out for foul play?

There are no easy answers. But there are examples of international agreements without binding rules that nonetheless have had an impact on how countries behave, according to environmental law expert Dan Bodansky of Arizona State University.

In a recent academic article, Bodansky wrote that the 1975 Helsinki Declaration on human rights was successful despite its non-legal nature, "because of its regular review conferences ... which focused international scrutiny on the Soviet bloc's human rights performance."

Conversely, the 1997 climate pact known as the Kyoto Protocol failed despite having binding emissions targets for wealthy nations. The U.S. never joined that pact in part because the targets were binding. And when Canada realized it wasn't meeting its targets, it just dropped out.

"Even having legally binding targets is no guarantee that countries do what they've promised to do," said Elliot Diringer of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, an environmental think tank in Arlington, Virginia.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK police probe 'terrorist' knife attack at London station

LONDON (AP)—Counter-terrorism police in Britain on Sunday investigated a stabbing at a London Underground station in which a man brandishing a knife injured two people and reportedly said "This is for Syria." Police arrested a 29-year-old man late Saturday and said they are treating the "violent unprovoked knife attack" at east London's Leytonstone subway station as a "terrorist incident." Richard Walton, chief of Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command, said the decision was made because of information received from witnesses and subsequent police investigations. The force said it was searching a residential address in east London, but declined to say whether they were looking for other suspects.

Armenia votes to give president's powers to prime minister

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—Early results show that Armenian voters at Sunday's referendum have supported constitutional changes that would give more powers to the prime minister and parliament at the expense of the president. Armenia's Central Election Commission said in a statement early on Monday that 63 percent have supported the amendments that would make the president largely a figurehead. The opposition has seen the reform as an attempt by President Serzh Sargsyan to extend his rule. Sargsyan has denied the claim, saying he has no intention of shifting into the prime minister's seat after his second term in office ends in 2018. Sargsyan's government has promoted the constitutional changes as a step toward strengthening democracy in the former Soviet state by providing for a greater balance of powers and a stronger judicial branch.

Venezuela opposition claims victory ahead of vote results

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Leaders of Venezuela's opposition are celebrating victory ahead of official results in Sunday's crucial legislative elections that could alter the country's balance of power after 17 years of socialist rule. Hours after polls closed, several opposition leaders took to the Internet to announce that their sources showed they had won a majority of seats in the National Assembly for the first time since 1998. Opposition supporters were seen celebrating. But with no official results released and the ruling socialist party not commenting, their claims could not be confirmed. President Nicolas Maduro had repeatedly vowed in recent weeks to take to the streets and defend the socialist system build by his mentor the late President Hugo Chavez if his party lost, though on Sunday, he appeared to change his tone.

Airstrikes target IS de facto capital of Raqqa in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Airstrikes hit several positions of the Islamic State group in its de facto capital of Raqqa in northern Syria on Sunday, killing and wounding at least 15 people, opposition activists and social media pages loyal to IS said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 15 blasts shook the northern and eastern outskirts of Raqqa on Sunday, killing 32 IS fighters and wounding more than 40.

A Raqqa-based activist group that reports on IS, known as Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, said warplanes struck IS positions on the edge of the city. It had no word on casualties.

RBSS did not say which country carried out the airstrikes while the Observatory said they are believed to be from the U.S.-led coalition that began targeting IS in Syria in September 2014.

A Facebook page used by IS supporters said the airstrikes were carried out by Russian warplanes on the outskirts of Raqqa and killed 15 people, including eight children and five women. It said 25 people were wounded in the airstrikes.

Airstrikes on Raqqa have intensified after last month's attack in Paris that killed 130 people and the Oct. 31 crash of a Russian passenger plane in the Sinai Peninsula that killed all 224 people on board, nearly all of them Russians. Russia said the plane was downed by a bomb. IS claimed responsibility for both attacks.

Russia and a U.S.-led coalition that includes France have been pounding Raqqa.

Also Sunday, a Syrian businessman that the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned last month, saying he serves as a middleman for oil purchases by the Syrian regime from IS, denied the charges against him.

The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned four individuals and six entities for providing support to the Syrian government. As a result, the U.S.-based assets of those individuals and entities are frozen, and Americans are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

George Haswani, co-owner of HESCO Engineering and Construction Co., a major engineering and construction company in Syria, told The Associated Press in Damascus that the accusations are not true "simply because the oil pipeline is out of service and is damaged in more than 60 points."

"These huge amounts of oil can't be transported except via convoys of tankers," Haswani said. "I challenge (the U.S.) to unveil any document or show images of tankers heading to areas under the control of the Syrian government."

Libya's rival governments shun UN, sign separate peace deal

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Lawmakers from Libya's rival parliaments have reached a power-sharing agreement in Tunisia, shunning a U.N.-brokered deal to avoid the "foreign intervention" tainting it, an internationally recognized government representative said Sunday.

However, it appeared the deal had failed to gain broad acceptance by either side, with representatives from both parliaments coming out to slam the newly minted agreement.

Libya slid into chaos following the 2011 toppling and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The oil-rich country has been torn between an internationally recognized government in the far east and Islamist-backed government in the capital, Tripoli.

The U.N.'s unity government deal, which is aimed at ending the conflict, was drafted by its former envoy to Libya, Bernardino Leon, who accepted a job last month from the United Arab Emirates. The country backs some members of the internationally recognized government, casting doubts on the international body's neutrality.

Sunday's move seemed to splinter the north African country's governing bodies even further, with members from both sides coming out to praise or criticize the deal.

"We believe this is a step on the right track away from intervention of foreign entities and manipulation," prominent internationally recognized parliament member Abu Bakr Beira said in the eastern city of Tobruk, where his parliament is based.

Meanwhile, his parliament's spokesman told The Associated Press the new deal does not represent the body.

"This is an individual effort and a childish attempt to get out of signing the real peace deal," Faraj Abu Hashim said.

If successful, Sunday's deal would see the formation of two 10-member committees, with both camps enjoying equal representation. One committee would name a prime minister and two deputies-one from each body- in the next two weeks. The trio would then form the unity Cabinet. The other committee would draft a constitution and prepare for parliamentary elections within two years.

Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi received the chief negotiators Sunday night after the talks and urged the negotiating parties to maintain contacts with the U.N. envoy for Libya.

"Tunisia welomes this step, which helps to bring an end to division in Libya and allow this brother country to re-establish unity and assure conditions of security and stability on its territory," the president's office said in a statement after the low-profile talks in the Tunis suburb of Gammarth.

According to the media offices of both parties, nearly half the members of each body are still in favor of the U.N. deal despite Leon's departure, albeit with conditions. The U.N. has repeatedly refused to reconsider changing the proposal.

Focus

AP
In this Oct. 21, 2014 file photo, passengers wait for their luggage upon arrival at the Sunan International Airport in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Security heightened even as N. Korea tries to woo tourists

ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—So you're thinking of taking an exotic vacation, having a little adventure and coming back with lots of stories for your envious friends and colleagues. Believe it or not, North Korea might just be the place for you.

But watch what you bring. And what you do. And what you say.

While North Korea is making a strong push to increase the number of tourists who visit the country each year—currently a few thousand come from Western countries and more from neighboring China—it is stepping up its enforcement of a broad set of strict but sometimes ambiguously implemented regulations about what foreign visitors can bring with them or what they can do while in the country.

North Korea's push for tourists began in 2013 and visitors can now enjoy a surprisingly broad array of options, from helicopter rides over the capital to surfing on the country's scenic eastern coast. With winter now setting in, the North is hoping its newly opened luxury ski resort near the city of Wonsan, which was largely empty of tourists last season while Pyongyang closed its borders over Ebola fears, will be a big draw.

Even so, the pro-tourism policy, like many other business opportunities that involve dealing with and possibly making concessions to the outside world, poses an obvious conundrum for Pyongyang—the potential of economic gains that require change, versus concerns about how that might undermine regime security.

AP
In this June 27, 2015, file photo, passengers board an Air Koryo plane at the Pyongyang International Airport, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

"Despite the policy of getting more tourists, they still see security, or at least perceptions of security, as a bigger concern, and tourism is pretty far down the list of priorities," said Simon Cockerell of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, which has specialized in North Korea travel since 1993. "It's clear that the restrictions, rules and so on often act against increasing tourist numbers."

For those visitors who do break the rules, the risks of detention, arrest and possibly even jail sentences are real enough, especially if the offender is from the United States. The U.S. State Department recently updated and expanded its already blunt warning against North Korean travel. In a nutshell, its advice is simple: Just don't do it.

"While tourism and the flexibility of travel in the DPRK has expanded, there has been a measurable increase in security at the borders," said Andrea Lee, CEO of New Jersey-based Uri Tours, which has been organizing tours to the North—officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—for 15 years.

Detentions and arrests, while certain to grab international headlines, are actually quite rare.

Most involve extenuating circumstances, such as illegal border crossings or religious or political activities that lead to fairly predictable problems. The vast majority of tourists also visit on carefully orchestrated tours arranged by major agencies that specialize in travel to the North and are well versed in the latest set of dos and don'ts, which they pass on to their clients before anyone boards the flight to Pyongyang.

"I have never heard of anyone getting in trouble by accident or by doing something that they genuinely thought would not cause them any trouble," Cockerell said. "There are rules and laws, of course, that differ from those most visitors are used to, but they are not secret and responsible companies advise their clients in advance what can and can't be done."

Just how does one toe the line in one of the world's most authoritarian countries?

For many, the first test comes while they are still in the air.

On North Korea's flagship airline, Air Koryo, cabin attendants sternly scold passengers shooting souvenir photos and delete anything they decide is inappropriate. English-language newspapers are available on most flights, but crumpling them will bring a lecture and possibly require a written apology. Newspapers inevitably feature photos of Kim Jong Un and defacing the leader's image is a serious crime.

Customs can also be a shock.

Scrutiny of books is increasing to the point some agencies advise against bringing any at all. At Pyongyang's new airport, officials recently started to not only turn on laptops but to also at times search whatever is on them extensively.

They can and often do, as the most recent State Department warning noted, "inspect USB drives, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, or any other electronic and multimedia devices brought into the country. Internet browsing histories and cookies on travelers' computers and other electronic devices are subject to search for banned content, including pornography or material critical of the DPRK government."

Anything pro-South Korea, of course, is a no-no. And heaven forbid taking a Bible.

Once inside the country, visitors can expect to have virtually no freedom to roam about unescorted.

But they can still land in hot water if they start up conversations with random people on the street, do anything that smacks of politicking or proselytizing, attempt to exchange currency with an unauthorized vendor, take unauthorized photographs, shop at stores not designated for foreigners or in any way show disrespect to the "Great Persons of Mount Paektu"—national founder Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Jong Il and the current dictator, Kim Jong Un.

And, as the State Department warns, if you take a mobile phone and feel like calling home, "please keep in mind that you have no right to privacy in North Korea and should assume your communications are monitored."

"The DPRK is a much different place to visit now than it was a decade ago. Now, travelers can visit 8 of the 9 provinces and there are a wide range of activities available to tourists," said Lee, of Uri Tours. "In our experience, the DPRK is a safe and rewarding place to visit. However, travelers are expected to follow the rules and to be escorted by our guides at all times."

So, is it worth it?

Seeing North Korea firsthand can be a great opportunity to learn something about one of the most enigmatic places on the planet. But like the 24 million people who live here, for whom the pleasures of tourism abroad are not an option, you won't have much freedom to really make the most of it.

Overdrive

US auto sales hit 14-year high in November

DETROIT (AP)—November used to be a slow month for U.S. car sales. Not anymore.

Black Friday promotions—some of which began well before Thanksgiving—pushed last month's sales to a 14-year high of 1.3 million, just short of a record for the month. Sales were up 1.4 percent from last November, according to Autodata Corp.

General Motors' sales rose 1.5 percent, while Toyota and Fiat Chrysler each saw 3 percent sales gains. Hyundai's sales jumped 12 percent, while Nissan's were up 4 percent. Ford's sales were flat.

Honda's sales fell 5 percent, hurt by lower CR-V sales. But the biggest sales decline was at Volkswagen. VW's U.S. sales plummeted almost 25 percent, hurt by the company's admission that its diesel vehicles cheated on emissions tests.

November was a notoriously slow sales month until about five years ago, when car dealers joined other retailers in promoting Black Friday, according to Edmunds analyst Jessica Caldwell. Now, like Amazon, Wal-Mart and others, dealers start advertising Black Friday deals as early as Halloween. Jeep offered zero percent financing for up to 75 months. GM teased savings of up to 20 percent of for its Buick, Chevrolet and GMC brands. Hyundai offered an extra $500 on the Sonata sedan between Nov. 20 and Nov. 30.

Ford's U.S. sales chief Mark LaNeve said sales got progressively stronger in November, and the last day of the month was one of the best this year.

Deals can be dangerous for the auto industry because they cut into profits and lower vehicles' resale value. Incentives have been creeping upward since 2011; in November, they rose an estimated $172 over last year to $3,066 per vehicle, according to the car buying site TrueCar.com.

The average sale price of a vehicle last month was $32,966, up 1 percent from the previous month.

Automakers are also trying to capture as many sales as they can in the boom years before sales inevitably slow. Rising interest rates, higher gas prices and other factors are all expected to stall auto sales sometime in the next few years.

Last week, sales forecasting firm LMC Automotive said sales are now likely to reach a record 17.5 million in 2015.

For November, automakers said:

■ GM's sales rose 1.5 percent to 229,296. Chevrolet and Cadillac brand sales were up but fell at Buick and GMC. Sales of GM's best-seller, the Silverado pickup, rose 5 percent.

■ Toyota's sales rose 3 percent to 189,517. In a sign of the impact of lower gas prices, sales of the RAV4 SUV jumped nearly 30 percent while Prius hybrid sales were down 10 percent.

■ Ford's sales were up less than 1 percent to 187,794. A 10-percent increase in F-Series pickup sales couldn't overcome lower sales of key vehicles like the Escape SUV and Fusion sedan.

■ FCA's sales rose 3 percent to 175,974, powered by a 20-percent increase in Jeep sales. Ram truck sales rose 1 percent. Dodge, Fiat and Chrysler sales all fell.

■ Honda's sales fell 5 percent to 115,441. The company was hurt by an 18-percent decline in sales at its Acura luxury brand.

■ Nissan's sales rose 4 percent to 107,083. Truck and SUV sales jumped 15 percent, but Leaf electric car sales dropped 60 percent.

■ Hyundai's sales rose 12 percent to 60,007. Sales of its newly redesigned Tucson SUV nearly doubled over last November.

UNDER THE HOOD

Fixing car's air conditioning a job best left to pros

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I thought I'd get your take on this before proceeding. My car's air conditioning quit working back in August and I didn't have the time to do anything about it. More recently, on cold mornings, I've been having trouble getting the car's defroster to work properly. I've heard the air conditioning system is used for defrosting. I now have the time to work on this or simply get it fixed. I was considering adding a refrigerant like Freon with one of those kits from the auto supply store. How much should I buy?

A: Whoa—step away from the vehicle! You are absolutely correct that the air conditioning system is used to help defrost windows. Let's rethink this Freon idea, though.

Assuming your car was built during the past decade or so, its air conditioning compressor is likely controlled by its powertrain control module, or PCM, based on inputs from the climate control panel and a perhaps a half dozen sensors and switches (the body control module may also be involved).

When you request air conditioning operation, the PCM receives this signal and looks at conditions such as refrigerant pressure, throttle position, vehicle speed, engine temperature and more to determine if compressor operation is appropriate. If the sum of this information tells the PCM things are "good to go," a command is sent to the compressor clutch relay, which powers the compressor's magnetic clutch, engaging a pulley/hub.

As one can see, there's a lot of things that need to happen correctly before the compressor can function, in addition to there being the correct quantity of refrigerant in place, proper function of refrigerant flow devices, unobstructed airflow across the condenser, and the compressor being competent. In some cases, the air conditioning system could be making cold air just fine, but a ventilation fault is causing heated air to be mixed with it.

The right way to approach this is to begin with a visual inspection of components under the hood, looking for signs of refrigerant oil leakage from components and fittings. Then a check should be made to see if all heating, ventilation and air conditioning functions are working as they should. Many times a seemingly unrelated function or accompanying component provides a valuable diagnostic clue.

Next is a scan tool check, looking for related diagnostic trouble codes. It's possible such a code will point to a fault such as a failed switch, sensor, out-of-range condition, or incorrect system pressure. Don't expect an illuminated check engine light for some of these trouble codes, as they're not emissions related. You may see a blinking light or "service needed" message on the climate control panel. Checking the related system scan-data list can quickly indicate if the PCM is satisfied with inputs and is authorizing the air conditioning clutch to function. An override command could also be sent to check for proper response. This will require a pro grade scan tool that goes far beyond the inexpensive tools.

It is possible all of the gadgets and controls on your car are working correctly, but the system is simply low on refrigerant due to leakage. Adding refrigerant without knowing the present quantity is a bad idea as an overcharge can inhibit proper function just like an undercharge—don't go there! Assuming the system is low on refrigerant, the right way to fix it is to locate and repair any leakage, evacuate (remove any/all air and moisture from the system) and recharge with the exact quantity of refrigerant specified. This is a job for a pro!

In Celebration of His New Life

†Herman Herbert Sablan Del Rosario

October 01, 1953 –December 03, 2015

In His New life, He now joins his:

Parents: †Juan Del Rosario
†Francisco A. Manahane and Magdalena S. Manahane
Parents- In- Law: †Pedro P. Duenas and Lucia A. Duenas (PPD)
Brothers: †Francisco S. Rosario
†Ronald S. Del Rosario
Brother-In-Law: †Albert A. Duenas
Sisters-In-Law: †Casilda S. Duenas
†Margarita D. Matagolai

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his .

Wife: **Rose Duenas Del Rosario – (PPD)**
Children: **Dorsha Jane** D./ Eduardo Jr. Guinto (Brandon, Donovan, Colton, Edward Jr., Aryana)
John Peter D. Del Rosario / Darrah Benavente (Aidin)
Tricia Rose D. Del Rosario / Joseph Reyes Jr. (Elerie Rose, Elicia Jo)
Tracy Lynn D. Del Rosario
Herman Herbert D. Del Rosario Jr.
Trianna Jamae D. Del Rosario
Reared Son: **Wilber** (PJ) Ngotel /Desiree Valdez (Leilani)
Brothers and Sisters:
John S./ Julie Del Rosario and Children
†**Francisco** S. Rosario and Children
†**Ronald** S. Del Rosario and Children
Manuel S./ Flora Manahane and Children
David S./ Shirley Manahane and Children
Emilio S./ Kumiko Manahane and Children
Luis S. Manahane and Children
Maria M. Michelson / John Michelson and Children
Ramon S./ Amier Manahane and Children
Jose S./ Bertha Manahane and Children
Francisca M./ Rusell Colvin and Children
Rita M. / Canice Taitano and Children
Anthony S./ Frances Manahane and Children
Brothers In Law/Sisters In Law and Children:
Thomas A./ Lisa Duenas and Children
Miguel / Bernie Aldan and Children
†**Margarita** D./ Roque Matagolai and Children
†**Albert** A./ Rosalia Duenas and Children
Pedro A. Jr./ Maria A. Duenas and Children
Lucy Duenas and Children
Josephine D./Mark Barber and Children
Evelyn D./ Paul Cangco and Children
Ramona A. Duenas-Jones / Richard Jones and Children

He will also be missed by her numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, god children, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul are being celebrated daily at San Antonio Church at 06:00 p.m followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2015. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 a.m to Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be held upon arrival of remain followed by Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a. m. Interment Service will be at 12:00 noon at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank you – Si Yu'us Maase

Rose Duenas Del Rosario , Children and Family

Life & Style

10 ways Frank Sinatra's influence is still felt today

By GLENN GAMBOA
NEWSDAY

Frank Sinatra was complicated.

His career was filled with ups and downs. His life was both a fairy tale and reality-show real, sometimes simultaneously.

That's the main reason there has never been "the new Sinatra" that title is too complex, both too high a compliment and too big a criticism.

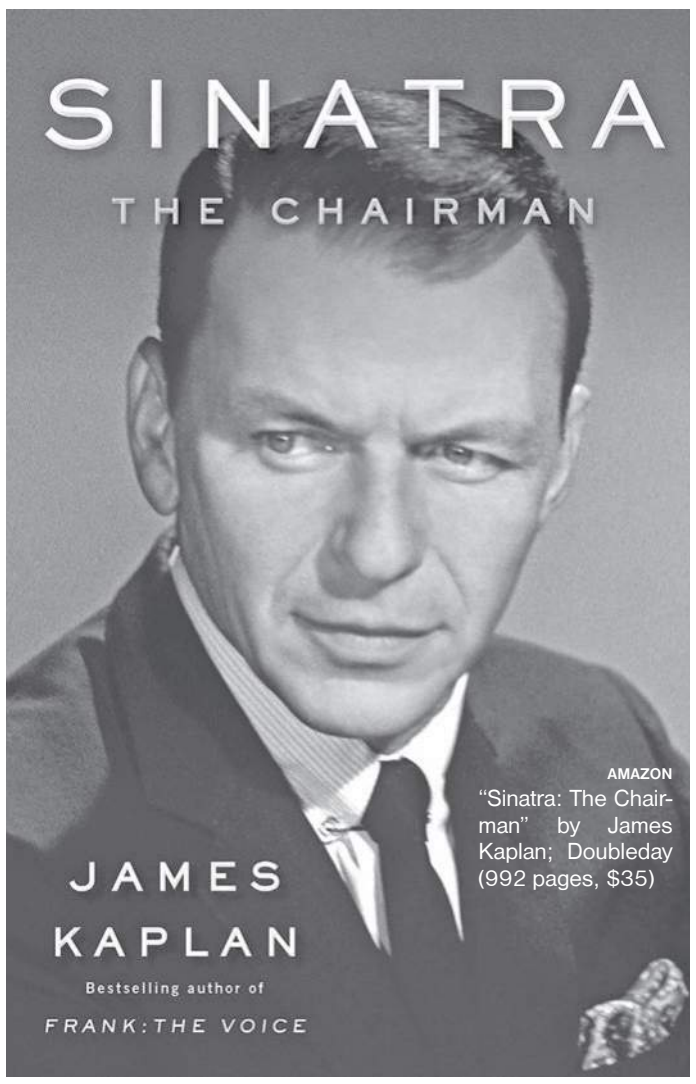
Though it has been 17 years since he died of a heart attack at the age of 82, he remains one of the greatest American pop singers ever. To commemorate what would have been Sinatra's 100th birthday on Dec. 12, here's a look at 10 ways his presence is still felt today in popular culture.

THE POP IDOL: Before there were the swooning fans of Elvis Presley and the screaming ones of The Beatles, there were the bobby-soxers who worshipped young Sinatra. Take note, Directioners and Beliebers, the bobby-soxers had no examples to teach them how to express their fandom. And when 30,000 mostly teenage girls took over Times Square on Oct. 12, 1944, as Sinatra launched a series of shows at the Paramount, no one but them really understood what was happening. Teenage culture was born that day and has continued to grow ever since.

THE ULTIMATE CROONER: Sinatra's early style—wrapping his baritone around a ballad, smoothly navigating intricate lyrics—has influenced generations of singers, from his contemporary Tony Bennett to Harry Connick Jr. and Michael Buble to Sal Valentinetti, who made a splash this year on "American Idol."

THE MODERN MAGAZINE PROFILE: "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold," Gay Talese's profile of Sinatra for Esquire magazine in 1966, was a turning point in celebrity journalism, a high-profile example of applying news reporting standards to an entertainment personality. It is now seen as the gold standard of profile writing and a founding work in the "New Journalism" movement. "I wanted to have a portrait that would be interesting to read, well reported, precise in the gathering of its facts and the detail—the fact that even the soles of his shoes were shined," Talese recently told The Telegraph. "I wanted to achieve a place for myself in the written word that was worthy of respect, and didn't have to measure up against these foppish (expletive) fiction writers that got all the glory. That was my little private battle: to elevate journalism, because we were the underclass."

THE SQUAD: Long before Taylor Swift's squad of female supermodels, actress and singers became a point of cultural fascination, there was The Rat Pack—Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop—who did movies like "Ocean's 11" and partied together.



AMAZON
"Sinatra: The Chairman" by James Kaplan; Doubleday (992 pages, $35)

THE LOWERCASE: Don't worry, texters. The Chairman of the Board didn't bother using proper punctuation in his notes, either. In his recent biography, "Sinatra: The Chairman," James Kaplan writes that most of Sinatra's notes lacked capital letters, written in his "too-impatient-to-press-the-shift-key style."

THE CELEBRITY MUGSHOT: Sinatra's arrest in 1938 by the Bergen County, New Jersey, sheriff for seduction and adultery—yes, that was criminal back in the day—yielded what may be the most famous mugshot of the time, launching a tradition that has become exceedingly commonplace. Ask Nick Nolte. Or Justin Bieber.

THE COMEBACK: Almost as quickly as Sinatra rose to prominence in the first half of the '40s, his career skidded to a halt by the end of the decade. By 1950, he was plagued by allegations of mob connections, the loss of his voice and a public split with his wife, Nancy. His tumultuous relationship with Ava Gardner allegedly led to several suicide attempts and he was dropped from his deal with Columbia Records. But in 1953, his performance in "From Here to Eternity" earned him an Oscar and he soon joined forces with conductor Nelson Riddle, returning him to the top of the charts. His path of success-struggle-then-redemption has been retraced by many from Elvis to The Biebs.

FBI SURVEILLANCE: As much as critics of hip-hop would like to think so, law enforcement surveillance of musicians did not begin with rappers. According to FBI records, the agency investigated Sinatra from 1943 to 1985, monitoring "his contacts with racketeering investigation subjects and his early involvement with the Communist Party in Hollywood."

DUETS: Sinatra's 1993 "Duets" became the biggest-selling album of his career, going triple platinum and reaching No. 2 on Billboard's album chart. It was as much a marketing concept as it was a musical one, teaming him with contemporary stars, from Bono to Kenny G. And the idea has since been duplicated by everyone from Aretha Franklin to Carlos Santana, with varying success.

THE CONCEPT ALBUM: Sinatra, along with Riddle and producer Voyle Gilmore, decided that his 1954 album "Songs for Young Lovers" should be built around a central theme, making it the first popular concept album, with songs like "My Funny Valentine" and "They Can't Take That Away from Me." Concept albums became more intricate—from the Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds" to Green Day's "American Idiot"—but, as he often was, Sinatra was first.

Vestige of St. Louis Disney park that never was up for sale

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Imagine packing up the kids and heading for that dream vacation to a Disney theme park ... in St. Louis.

It almost happened a half-century ago when Disney drew up plans for an indoor theme park in downtown St. Louis before giving up in a dispute over money and turning attention to Florida. St. Louis' loss was the Orlando area's gain: Walt Disney World became one the world's top tourist attractions.

St. Louis can only lament what might have been.

"I think it would have added a very interesting component to the development of the city in the '60s," said Chris Gordon, director of library and collections for the Missouri History Museum, who has researched the project. "Disney was such a big phenomenon at that time. There's a good chance it would have been successful."

On Thursday, one of the few remnants of the park goes on the auction block—13 pages of 1963 blueprints spelling out plans for "Walt Disney's Riverfront Square" in St. Louis. The Calabasas, California-based company Profiles in History is auctioning the blueprints as part of its "Animation and Disneyana" auction.

"I believe this is the only complete set of plans," said Mike Fazio, a consignment specialist working with the company. "It's amazing how many people don't even know that they were going to build a park in St. Louis."

Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California, in 1955, and by the early 1960s, Walt Disney was looking to expand with another park easily accessible beyond the West Coast. St. Louis seemed a good choice, and not just because of its geographically central location or because Disney grew up in Missouri.

St. Louis was booming in the Camelot years. The Gateway Arch was under construction, opening in 1965. And Busch Stadium was being built a few blocks away, bringing both football and baseball downtown in 1966.

Plans called for "Walt Disney's Riverfront Square" to cover two blocks in the heart of downtown, just a few blocks from the Arch grounds and the Mississippi River

St. Louis isn't blessed with California-like weather, so Disney's plan called for a five-story indoor park. Some of the rides planned for St. Louis eventually became fixtures at Disneyland and Walt Disney World, including the Pirates of the Caribbean, the Haunted Mansion, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

Disney himself met with St. Louis Mayor Raymond Tucker in March 1963 to discuss the proposal.

But, the idea fizzled. Legend was that the plan was thwarted because Anheuser-Busch beer baron August A. Busch Jr. insisted that the theme park sell beer, and Disney refused to do so.

But in a 2013 account of the St. Louis project for the Disney History Institute, Todd James Pierce wrote that any disagreement over beer had been worked out—money was the issue. Disney was willing to pay for the rides and attractions, but wanted St. Louis' redevelopment corporation to pay for the building. The corporation declined to do so.

Disney officially backed out in 1965.

The Arch, the Cardinals and other attractions make St. Louis a popular tourist attraction today, with an estimated 21 million yearly visitors. Walt Disney World draws about 52 million annual visitors.

The blueprints show some wear on edges, but the condition is rated "very good." They are expected to sell for at least $5,000 to $10,000, Fazio said.

LA Film Critics pick 'Spotlight' as best film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The high-octane "Mad Max: Fury Road" might have driven off with the most awards on Sunday, but the Los Angeles Film Critics Association had another in mind for its top film of the year: "Spotlight," the comparatively subdued drama about the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation into sex abuses in the Catholic Church.

LAFCA is one of the highest-profile regional critics groups, but often strays from the mainstream in its annual awards choices. Only once in the past 20 years has the LAFCA Best Film winner gone on to win the Best Picture Oscar.

There was no clear favorite this year, and LAFCA honored a vast variety of some of the year's best films further reinforcing the narrative that the Oscar race is still fairly undefined.

"Mad Max: Fury Road," picked up three honors—the most for any film—including best director for George Miller, best cinematography, and best production design. But the dystopian rager, which the National Board of Review chose as their best film earlier this week, got second place to Tom McCarthy's "Spotlight," which also won for its screenplay. Charlie Kaufman and Duke Johnson's dark animated film "Anomalisa" also got multiple awards, including best animated film and best music/score for composer Carter Burwell, who was also recognized for "Carol."

Acting awards were given similarly out of the box choices. Michael Fassbender won best actor for portraying the tech titan in "Steve Jobs," while Charlotte Rampling picked up the award for best actress for her role in the marital drama "45 Years."

Michael Shannon won best supporting actor for playing the predatory real estate broker in the housing bubble film "99 Homes," and Alicia Vikander won best supporting actress for her performance as the beguiling Artificial Intelligence creation in "Ex Machina."

"Amy," about the life of late pop star Amy Winehouse, won best documentary, and "Son of Saul" picked up best foreign film

Director Ryan Coogler also won the LAFCA new generation award for "Creed," a continuation of the Rocky Balboa saga.

One Direction leads the way on Twitter's list of 2015 tweets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Messages of love and gratitude shared by the boy band One Direction topped Twitter's charts this year, eclipsing President Barack Obama's celebration of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing gay marriage.

One Direction members accounted for half of the 10 most recirculated tweets, including the three most popular.

All the One Direction tweets were either directed at bandmates or the group's fans. None are likely to be remembered for heralding pivotal moments in history.

"All the love as always. H," One Direction's Harry Styles tweeted in March after Zayn Malik announced plans to leave the group. Styles boasts 26.3 million Twitter followers. The band's other current and former members have amassed between 16.6 million and 23.7 million followers apiece.

Obama nabbed the fourth spot in the Twitter rankings released Monday with a June 26 tweet that hailed the Supreme Court's ruling on gay marriage as "a big step in our march toward equality."

AP
In this Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, file photo, Niall Horan, from left, Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne of One Direction arrive at 102.7 KIIS FM's Jingle Ball iHeartRadio at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Other tweets in Twitter's Top 10 came from Saudi Arabia King Salman after his crowning, hip hop personality Kayne West calling for people to do everything they can, actor Leonard Nimoy philosophizing five days before his death and Caitlyn Jenner introducing herself after her transition from one-time Olympic decathlon champion Bruce Jenner.

Twitter also released some of the most popular topics, denoted by hashtags, that resonated with the more than 300 million users of its short-messaging service. The list included (hashtag)JeSuisParis after last month's terrorist attack in France, (hashtag) BlackLivesMatter after police shootings of African-Americans in several U.S. cities, (hashtag) LoveWins after the Supreme Court's ruling on gay marriage and (hashtag) RefugeesWelcome as people fled the Middle East for Europe.

Although Twitter Inc. has built a big audience, Facebook's social network is five times larger. A list about what people were talking about on Facebook this year is expected to be released soon, too.

Husband of former Disney star killed in Arkansas crash

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP)—Arkansas State Police say the husband of former Disney star Tiffany Thornton has been killed in a single-vehicle crash.

A police report says 35-year-old Christopher Carney was in a vehicle that veered off a highway on a curve early Friday near Hot Springs and struck a tree. Police say Carney and the driver, 37-year-old Ezekiel Blanton, were killed.

The city confirmed that Carney, the son of Hot Springs Mayor Ruth Carney, was married to Thornton.

The actress' credits include Disney television shows "Sonny with a Chance" and "So Random!" She's currently a radio personality in Hot Springs, which is about 50 miles southwest of Little Rock.

Carney was featured on the MTV show "twentyfourseven," about his and his brother's move to Los Angeles to break into show business. The show debuted in 2006.

Former NEA chair Dana Gioia named California poet laureate

NEW YORK (AP)—Dana Gioia, the poet and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, is returning to public life.

This time as California Poet Laureate.

Gov. Jerry Brown announced Friday that Gioia has been appointed to a 2-year term, succeeding Juan Felipe Herrera, who is now U.S. Poet Laureate. Gioia, a California native who turns 65 later this month, headed the NEA from 2003 to 2009 and has long advocated making poetry more accessible to the general public and teaching it in schools. His initiatives at the NEA included the national student contest Poetry Out Loud.

"Dana will bring the voice of a native son of California to his new role," Craig Watson, director of the California Arts Council, said in a statement. "And he'll also help our state's young people learn to explore and develop their own voices—just as he did when he created the Poetry Out Loud high school recitation program while at the NEA—a program which has greatly impacted California's young people for ten years."

Since returning from Washington, Gioia has taught poetry and public culture at the University of Southern California, not far from his hometown of Hawthorne. He has continued to write poetry and has a collection, "99 Poems: New & Selected," coming in March. During a telephone interview Friday with The Associated Press, Gioia said that when he left the NEA he had vowed never to run an organization again, public or private, but was open to a job that would allow him to concentrate on poetry.

Michael Douglas says cancer survival led to resurgence

NEW YORK (AP)—An emotional Michael Douglas said Thursday that surviving his cancer scare several years ago gave him new vitality as he settles into his senior years.

Douglas, 71, spoke about his health at an AARP luncheon celebrating the Academy Award-winner's storied career and said: "It's good to be alive."

Douglas battled stage four throat cancer in 2010.

"Once you come out of that end, you have a resurgence, certainly of energy," he told the crowd at the renowned restaurant Le Bernardin.

Douglas had his own celebrity cheering section as he was given AARP's "Movies for Grownups" Lifetime Achievement Award.

Besides his wife, fellow Oscar-winner Catherine Zeta-Jones, his "Ant-Man" co-star Paul Rudd, his "Fatal Attraction" co-star Glen Close, Blythe Danner, David Hyde Pierce, Zac Posen and Jann Wenner attended.

Close joked: "I love Michael so much that I stopped coloring my hair so I can look like him."

Douglas called "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which he produced, his most profound work, and noted that it was turned down at every Hollywood studio before its eventual release. He also attributed his longevity to picking the best film to work on instead of the best role.

"The greatest compliment I could get is that I see your name, and I don't know what I'm gonna get but it's going to be good," he said.

His voice cracked when he thanked his wife for her support; the couple separated a couple of years ago but reconciled, and Douglas noted the pair were celebrating their 15th anniversary this year.

He also got political, railing against super PACs that give large contributions to political candidate, blaming them for viciousness in the presidential campaign climate.

He also cited Wednesday's deadly mass shooting in San Bernadino, California, in asking for people of different political beliefs to unite on a common gun control solution, so "we cannot be completely embarrassed" before the rest of the world.

Daughter's changing gender identity baffles her family

DEAR ABBY: A good friend of mine recently found out his daughter, "Rhonda" (who is over 18), feels she should have been born a boy. "Ronnie" is now living life as a man and plans to change genders completely.

To say the least, my friend and his wife are finding it difficult to deal with. He doesn't understand why she can't just be gay, which he would be fine with. I want to give them emotional support while at the same time supporting Ronnie, but I'm having a hard time relating to their feelings.

Could you provide some resources for them, such as organizations that help families deal with gender changing and all that it entails?

WANTS TO BE SUPPORTIVE

DEAR WANTS TO BE SUPPORTIVE: I know an excellent LGBT organization that has been mentioned before in my column. It's called Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The largest increase in new individuals reaching out to PFLAG is now among trans people and their family members.

Ronnie can't "just be gay" because the issue isn't sexual orientation; it is Ronnie's GENDER IDENTITY. PFLAG can help to explain this to Ronnie's father, and he should visit pflag.org for guidance.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "John" for 18 years. We married while he was in prison. I know I have outgrown him, but I'm scared to say it's over in case I realize later that we should be together. Over the years, we have both cheated and hurt each other.

I don't know exactly what I am holding onto with him. There doesn't seem to be anyone else out there to choose from, so maybe I should stay. I'm not afraid to be alone, but I am confused. I am suffering from depression over this. Please help.

STUCK IN DES MOINES

DEAR STUCK: If the only reason you haven't left John is that there's no one else around to choose from, it's understandable that you would be depressed. The status quo isn't fair for you or your husband.

As I see it, you have two choices: Fix your marriage or leave. Of course, the better option would be for you and John to have counseling to see if your love can be revived. However, if it doesn't work, then it might be better for you both to separate. The reason there is no one else out there right now may be that you are unavailable.

DEAR ABBY: Call me ungrateful, but I am very uncomfortable receiving gifts. How can I get longtime friends to stop bringing hostess gifts when I invite them over? I don't need anything, and I resent feeling I am obligated to take something to them, too.

Why do women do this and men not feel so compelled? I have tried remarking, "The present of your 'presence' is present enough," but it continues. I need your help.

UNGRACIOUS IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNGRACIOUS: Women usually bring hostess gifts because they were raised to believe it is the gracious thing to do. ("Don't come empty-handed.") Since "remarking" hasn't gotten your message across, you will have to be more direct with your friends. TELL them that when they visit, you would prefer they bring only themselves and nothing more. Then explain that you are at a point where you have enough "things" and do not need or want any more.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

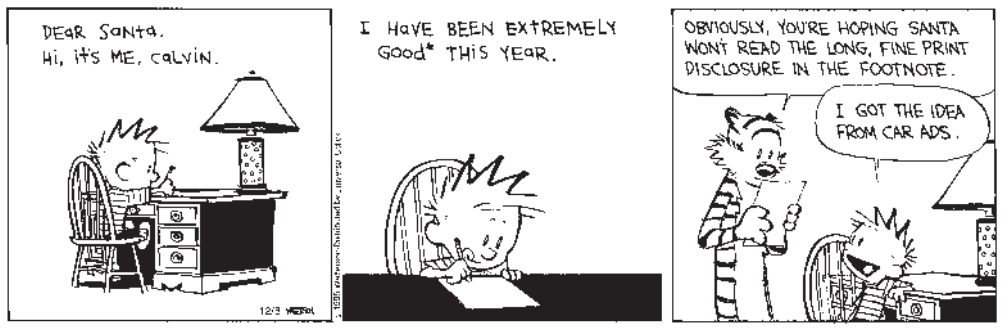
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

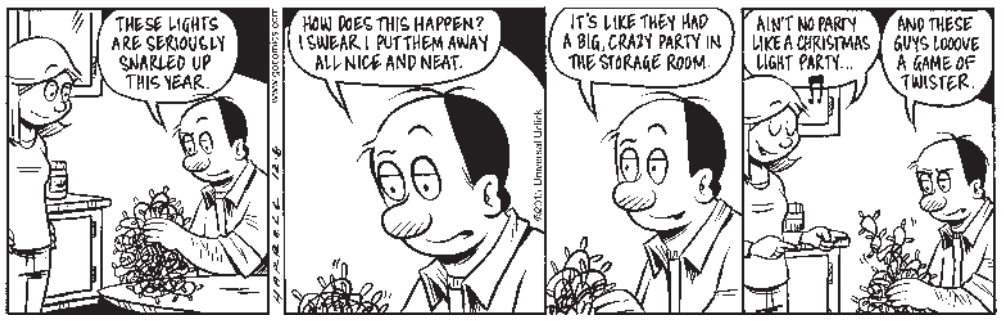

DEAR Santa.
Hi, it's ME, calvin.
I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY Good* THIS YEAR.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE HOPING SANTA WON'T READ THE LONG, FINE PRINT DISCLOSURE IN THE FOOTNOTE.
I GOT THE IDEA FROM CAR ADS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

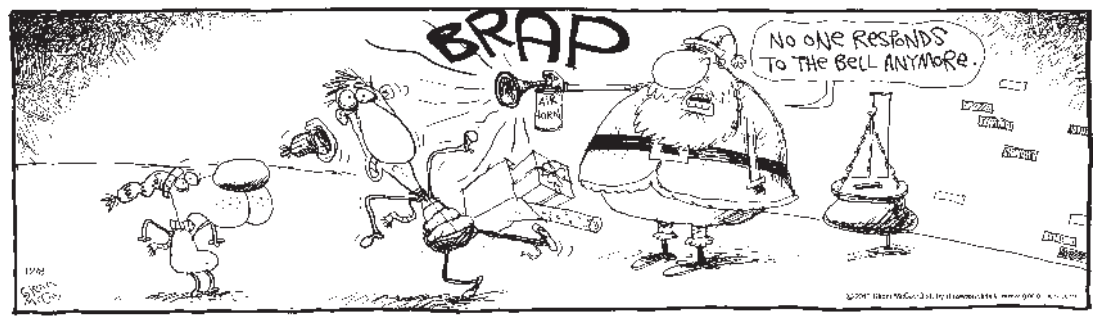
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THESE LIGHTS ARE SERIOUSLY SNARLED UP THIS YEAR.
HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN? I SWEAR I PUT THEM AWAY ALL NICE AND NEAT.
IT'S LIKE THEY HAD A BIG, CRAZY PARTY IN THE STORAGE ROOM.
AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A CHRISTMAS LIGHT PARTY...
AND THESE GUYS LOOOVE A GAME OF TWISTER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

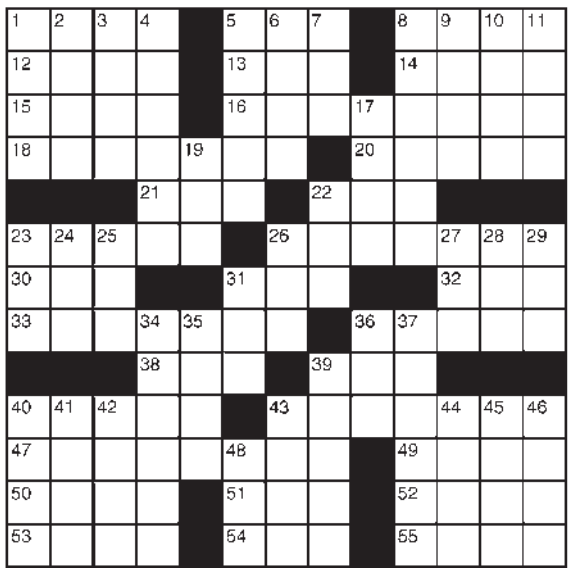
ACROSS
1 Wabbit chaser Elmer
5 Vinyl records
8 Pokes
12 "Got it"
13 Marker letters
14 Bread spread
15 Low-fat
16 1983 Styx hit
18 Handy man
20 Swindle
21 Dye brand
22 HBO rival
23 Vietnam capital
26 "Star Trek" logician
30 "O Sole —"
31 Pasture
32 Long or Peeples
33 Hunk No. 3 in a firefighter's calendar
36 Kilt fold
38 eBay offer
39 Movie list org.
40 "L'chaim!" is one
43 Bald grime fighter
47 Monocled food mascot
49 Netman Nastase
50 "I agree!"
51 Mil. support gp.
52 Hint of color
53 Deli cry
54 "New" prefix
55 Stetsons

DOWN
1 Cannes showing
2 Friendly leader?
3 Hearing-impaired
4 "Goodfellas" actor
5 Cap
6 Sweet wine
7 Big —, Calif.
8 Jump from gig to gig
9 Burn soother
10 Greek "B"
11 Flue grime
17 Folk-singer Phil
19 Nero's 12
22 Madrid Mrs.
23 Thinker's sound
24 Cause of inflation?
25 Paris moniker
26 "Whatever ..."
27 Tip jar bill
28 "Homeland" org.
29 Kit — Club
31 HDTV screen
34 Not here
35 Singer Coolidge
36 U.S. Army rank
37 Frasier's ex-wife
39 — -Detoo
40 "Untouchable" agt.
41 "Coffee, Tea —?"
42 Top spot
43 Ponder
44 Lamb alias
45 "— She Sweet" ('20s hit)
46 Puck catchers
48 Convent figure

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	A	S	H	■	R	I	G	■	A	D	Z	E
E	M	M	A	■	E	M	O	■	T	A	I	L
B	O	O	M	■	D	O	L	P	H	I	N	S
B	I	G	M	A	C	■	F	I	E	R	C	E
■	■	■	E	R	R	S	■	A	N	Y	■	■
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	S	■	A	C	R	E
O	S	U	■	A	S	Y	O	U	■	O	F	T
P	I	G	S	■	S	E	A	H	A	W	K	S
■	■	B	E	E	■	S	N	U	B	■	■	■
S	T	O	C	K	S	■	D	I	A	R	V	A
C	H	A	R	G	E	R	S	■	C	A	B	S
A	R	T	E	■	L	O	O	■	U	T	A	H
B	U	S	T	■	A	B	S	■	S	E	S	E

Yesterday's answer 12-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicki Minaj, 33; Ian Somerhalder, 37; Dominic Monaghan, 39; Teri Hatcher, 51.

Happy Birthday: Use your leadership qualities, but do so in a humble manner and you will gain the sort of recognition that will make you proud. Being a crusader for a worthy cause and finding unconventional solutions to problems will play in your favor. Keeping the peace will be in your best interest. A moderate approach to life will lead to greater stability. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 24, 33, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Cut your overhead and save money. If you give yourself incentives, it will be easier to go without some of life's little luxuries. Take an active role in making your personal relationships work. Work to please others and the return will be high. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Spend time with people who can help you out professionally. Someone will make an offer that appears flawless. Take a closer look before getting involved in a joint venture. Take an unusual approach to romance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be tempted to take on too much or indulge in things that are not realistic. Do whatever you can to raise your profile. Increase your qualifications and update your portfolio, resume or appearance. Work hard to find solutions. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be willing to accommodate others and you will end up getting your way. A personal relationship will improve with a little tender loving care. Do something that makes you happy. If you feel good, you will do better and attract attention. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get out with friends or engage in something that will bring you more knowledge. Look for information that will lead to new pursuits or prospects. Don't fall short because you are sulking over a personal situation. Change what isn't working for you. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a look around and see what's going on in your neighborhood or with friends, relatives or your peers. Showing interest in others will help you come up with ideas and sort out the problems you've been facing in your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do whatever it takes to motivate yourself to get down to business and finish what you start. Joining a group that adds excitement or adventure to your life will bring about positive changes to your friendships and hobbies. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your emotions will be in flux. Find a creative outlet, and you will advance personally. A change regarding your professional goals will help you make an important decision. Consider all the possibilities and take a leap of faith. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be criticized if you approach situations with a "me first" attitude. Distance yourself from people who encourage self-indulgence. Be more aware of how you can help others and less concerned about acquiring unnecessary luxuries. Use your energy wisely. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Go above and beyond the call of duty and you will give your reputation a boost. Your kindness, generosity and eagerness to share and contribute will separate you from any competition you face. An unusual connection looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let a love interest lead you astray. A realistic look at your situation will help you see your position clearly and encourage you to make the right choice. There is much to be gained if you focus on professional goals. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make improvements to your home or living arrangements. Honesty may hurt, but it's the quickest route to solving any existing problems. Know what you want before you negotiate and you will make a good deal. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, steadfast and loving. You are outgoing and goal-oriented.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			4				
5						3		
			6		2		9	
		2	5	1		7		
8			3	2	7			9
		6		8	9	1		
	4		7		8			
		5						2
				9			5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	9	2	5	7	4	6
7	4	9	6	3	1	5	2	8
6	2	5	8	7	4	3	1	9
9	7	6	2	8	3	1	5	4
1	3	4	5	9	6	2	8	7
8	5	2	4	1	7	9	6	3
5	8	1	7	6	9	4	3	2
2	9	3	1	4	8	6	7	5
4	6	7	3	5	2	8	9	1

Difficulty Level ★ 12/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FINISHING A BOOK REPORT Solution: 8 letters

T	A	C	Y	R	O	T	S	G	N	I	T	T	E	S
N	N	R	H	S	A	E	D	I	C	O	I	I	N	I
E	A	E	S	A	U	Ⓓ	E	D	I	T	S	M	S	S
I	L	A	M	S	P	M	Ⓐ	A	L	C	H	E	M	P
C	Y	T	S	E	U	T	M	Ⓔ	G	D	P	R	R	O
I	Z	I	N	Y	V	C	E	A	Ⓡ	E	A	U	E	N
F	E	V	O	Q	R	O	S	R	R	P	R	T	T	Y
F	E	E	T	L	U	A	R	I	S	Y	G	C	A	S
E	S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	D	T	A	U	L	P
S	E	U	S	K	S	A	T	B	M	D	R	R	U	E
I	M	G	L	A	R	O	M	E	I	I	A	T	C	C
S	E	E	L	A	Y	O	U	T	S	L	P	S	E	I
E	H	N	O	I	T	E	L	P	M	O	C	A	P	F
H	T	R	O	H	T	U	A	S	W	E	I	V	S	I
T	S	E	R	E	T	N	I	W	R	I	T	E	E	C

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Analyze, Author, Chapters, Completion, Creative, Discuss, Eager, Edit, Efficient, Essay, Genre, Ideas, Improvement, Interest, Issues, Layout, Library, Moral, Notes, Paragraphs, Progress, Quotes, Read, Save, Setting, Specific, Speculate, Story, Structure, Summary, Synopsis, Task, Terms, Themes, Thesis, Time, Title, Typed, Views, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Gratitude

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The flagrance of war
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
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Mustang Boss 302
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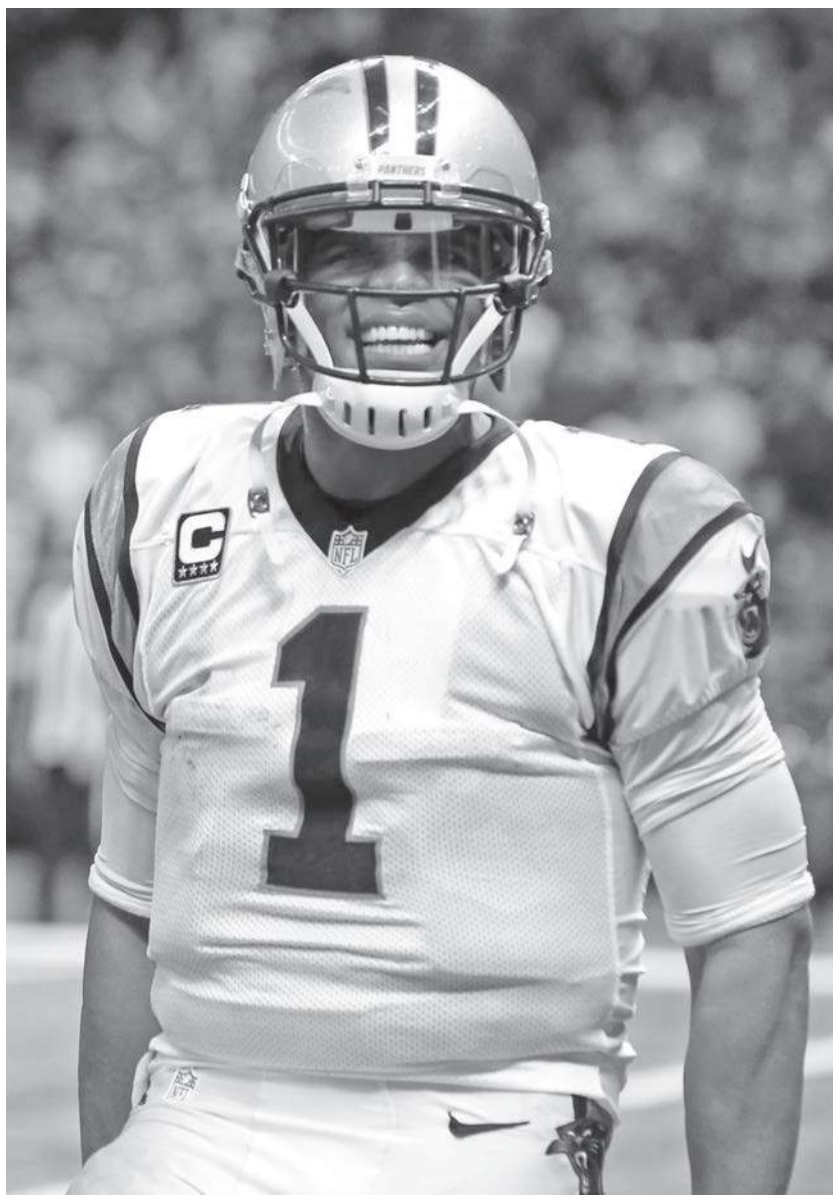
Newton keeps Panthers perfect with 41-38 win over Saints

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Cam Newton passed for five touchdowns, capped by a 15-yard scoring strike to Jerricho Cotchery with 1:05 to go, and the unbeaten Carolina Panthers wrapped up the NFC South title with a 41-38 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday.

Carolina, the only remaining unbeaten team in the NFL, has the ninth 12-0 start in league history.

Newton, who was 28 of 41 for 331 yards, twice had to lead the Panthers back from fourth-quarter deficits as the Saints (4-8) tried desperately to avoid a four-game losing streak. Jonathan Stewart had a 5-yard scoring run on a pitch from Newton.

Drew Brees passed for 282 yards and three touchdowns. Saints linebacker Stephone Anthony returned a fumble 31 yards for a score and also became the first NFL player to return a blocked extra-point kick for 2 points in NFL history.



AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) reacts after throwing the game winning touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.

Eagles 35, Patriots 28

In Foxborough, Mass., Najee Goode scored on a blocked punt, Malcolm Jenkins returned an interception 99 yards for another touchdown and Philadelphia held on for an improbable victory over New England.

Darren Sproles returned a punt 83 yards for the Eagles' second special teams touchdown, giving Philadelphia a 21-point lead before the Patriots came charging back.

Tom Brady threw for a touchdown to make it a two-score game and then, after an onside kick, ran it in from the 1 yard-line to cut it to seven points with 3 minutes left.

New England's second onside kick failed, but the Patriots (10-2) forced a third-down fumble to give Brady one more chance.

The comeback fell short when Brady's passes bounced out of his receivers' hands.

Losers of three in a row, the Eagles (5-7) had given up 45 points apiece in consecutive weeks heading into the game against the defending NFL champions and their Super Bowl MVP quarterback.

Now it's the Patriots on a losing streak—their first back-to-back regular-season losses since 2012.

Cardinals 27, Rams 3

In St. Louis, running backs David Johnson and Kerwynn Williams scored a touchdown apiece and Arizona stuffed St. Louis.

Johnson, a rookie, had 99 yards on 22 carries in his first start and caught one of two TD passes by Carson Palmer, who led an offense that rolled up 524 yards. Williams scored his first career TD on a 35-yard run.

Larry Fitzgerald made his 1,000th reception and topped 1,000 yards for the seventh time. The Cardinals (10-2) have won six in a row, and seven of eight since losing 24-22 at home to St. Louis in Week 4.

The Rams (4-8) have lost five in a row and have been outscored 58-10 the past two.

Steelers 45, Colts 10

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw for 364 yards and four touchdowns and Pittsburgh overwhelmed Indianapolis.

Antonio Brown caught eight passes for 118 yards and two scores and also returned a punt 71 yards for a touchdown for the Steelers (7-5).

Martavis Bryant hauled in four passes for 114 yards and a score, and DeAngelo Williams added 134 yards rushing as Pittsburgh shook off a slow start to dominate the Colts (6-6) over the final three quarters.

Roethlisberger has 886 yards passing and 10 touchdowns in his last two starts against Indianapolis.

Matt Hasselbeck threw for 169 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions before leaving in the fourth quarter because of neck and shoulder pain. The Colts remain tied with Houston for the lead in the AFC North.

Chiefs 34, Raiders 20

In Oakland, Calif., Jeremy Maclin had two touchdowns catches after fourth-quarter interceptions and Tyvon Branch returned a third interception from Derek Carr for a game-clinching score against his former team and Kansas City rallied for its sixth straight win.

The Raiders (5-7) were leading by six points and driving for more when Carr's mistakes changed the tide of the game and helped keep the Chiefs (7-5) in the lead in the AFC wild-card race.

Alex Smith threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third score and Maclin had 95 yards on nine catches to lead the Chiefs.

Carr threw for 283 yards and two touchdowns, but his three fourth-quarter interceptions sent Oakland to its fourth loss in five games.

Broncos 17, Chargers 3

In San Diego, Brock Osweiler threw for one touchdown and Danny Trevathan intercepted Philip Rivers and returned it 25 yards for a score, leading the Denver Broncos to a victory against hapless San Diego.

Osweiler improved to 3-0 since taking over for the injured Peyton Manning. The AFC West-leading Broncos are 10-2. San Diego fell to 3-9.

Thousands of orange-clad Broncos fans cheered the visitors in what might have been the penultimate Chargers game in San Diego. Chairman Dean Spanos wants to move to an industrial suburb of Los Angeles, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell last week warned San Diego that it had until the end of the month to come up with an acceptable plan for a new stadium.

The Chargers walked away from stadium talks in mid-June.

49ers 26, Bears 20, OT

In Chicago, Blaine Gabbert threw a 71-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith in overtime after running for the tying TD late in regulation, lifting struggling San Francisco to a victory over Chicago.

The Bears (5-7) had just gone three-and-out after forcing a punt by San Francisco to start the extra period.

On the first play of the 49ers' second possession, Gabbert found a wide-open Smith along the left sideline, giving San Francisco (4-8) a surprising win over a team that had jumped into playoff contention.

Jets 23, Giants 20, OT

In East Rutherford, N.J., Randy Bullock kicked a 31-yard field goal on the first possession of overtime to give the Jets a stunning win that sent the reeling Giants to their third straight loss.

The Jets (7-5) didn't seal the win until Josh Brown missed a 48-yard field goal field goal with 6:33 left in the extra session, his first miss in 26 attempts this season. That left many questioning Coughlin and wondering whether the Giants (5-7) are headed for a fourth straight season out of the playoffs.

Coughlin elected to go on a fourth-and-2 from the Jets 4 with his team ahead 20-10 with under nine minutes to play. The play failed.

Ryan Fitzpatrick rallied the Jets from a 10-point deficit in the final 4:24 of regulation. Fitzpatrick hit Brandon Marshall for a 9-yard touchdown with 27 seconds remaining to tie it and went 36 for 50 for 390 yards.

Seahawks 38, Vikings 7

In Minneapolis, Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns and rushed for another, Seattle's defense didn't allow a score, and the surging Seahawks won their third straight game with a romp over Minnesota.

Doug Baldwin had two touchdowns and 94 yards receiving and Thomas Rawls rushed for 101 yards and a score as the Seahawks (7-5) did whatever they wanted with the ball against an injury-depleted Vikings defense.

NFL rushing leader Adrian Peterson was limited to 18 yards on eight carries, and the Vikings (8-4) needed a 101-yard kickoff return by Cordarrelle Peterson in the third quarter to keep from being blanked.

Bills 30, Texans 21

In Orchard Park, N.Y., Tyrod Taylor threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Charles Clay with 1:53 left to lead Buffalo over Houston.

Taylor finished 11 of 21 for 211 yards and three TDs and also scored on an 8-yard run. Buffalo (6-6) snapped a two-game skid and gained ground on the Texans (6-6) in the AFC playoff race. Sammy Watkins had three catches for 109 yards and a touchdown.

The Texans had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Houston's Brian Hoyer finished 26 of 44 for 293 yards with three touchdowns but was unable to deliver in the clutch. Hoyer threw four consecutive incompletions on the Texans' drive after Clay's touchdown.

The Bills took over and Dan Carpenter secured the win with a 36-yard field goal with 33 seconds remaining. Carpenter otherwise struggled, missing a 50-yard field goal attempt and an extra point.

Titans 42, Jaguars 39

In Nashville, Tenn., Marcus Mariota scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 87-yard run midway through a wild fourth quarter, and Tennessee edged Jacksonville to snap its 11-game home losing streak.

The Titans (3-9) had not won on their own field since Oct. 12, 2014, when they needed a blocked field goal to beat these very same Jaguars 16-14. The teams combined for much more than that Sunday, scoring six touchdowns in the fourth quarter alone.

Mariota finished with 112 yards rushing, becoming the first Tennessee player to run for at least 100 yards since Chris Johnson on Dec. 29, 2013. The Heisman Trophy winner also threw for three touchdowns and 268 yards.

The Jaguars (4-8) failed at the chance to sweep Tennessee for the first time since 2005. Blake Bortles threw for 322 yards and five touchdowns.

Bengals 37, Browns 3

In Cleveland, Andy Dalton threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score and the Cincinnati Bengals moved closer to a playoff berth and the AFC North title with a win over woeful Cleveland, which dropped its seventh straight.

Dalton connected with A.J. Green for a 23-yard TD pass in the second quarter and the Bengals moved to 10-2 for just the second time in team history.

Cincinnati needed a complex scenario to clinch a playoff spot this week, and even if that doesn't happen, the Bengals are still poised to make the postseason for the fifth season in a row.

Green finished with 128 yards on five catches.

The Browns (2-10) lost for the second time in six days and had two more starters go down with injuries in a season that can't end soon enough.

Cleveland QB Austin Davis passed for 231 yards in his first start this season.

Buccaneers 23, Falcons 19

In Tampa, Fla., Jameis Winston threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Mike Evans with 1:39 remaining to give Tampa Bay a victory over Atlanta.

The No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft also scored on a 5-yard run and scrambled up the middle of the field 20 yards on third-and-19 to prolong the third game-winning drive of his young career.

Lavonte David sealed the fourth win in six games for the Bucs (6-6), intercepting Matt Ryan's pass intended for Julio Jones on Atlanta's final possession. The Falcons (6-6) have lost five straight, six of seven overall, after beginning the season 5-0.

Winston completed 18 of 27 passes for 227 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

But it was the rookie's timely run and ability to gain another 10 yards after appearing to be stopped at the Atlanta 33 that typified what the 2013 Heisman Trophy winner has meant to Tampa Bay, which has overcome a slow start to contend for a playoff berth.

Dolphins 15, Ravens 13

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Miami intercepted a pair of deflected passes from Matt Schaub to score two touchdowns 20 seconds apart late in the first half, and held on to beat Baltimore.

The score was 0-0 when Reshad Jones intercepted a pass batted by defensive tackle Jordan Phillips to set up the game's first score. On the next play, Ryan Tannehill hit a leaping DeVante Parker at the goal line for a 38-yard touchdown.

Three plays later, defensive end Derrick Shelby slapped a pass in the air, caught it and ran 22 yards to the end zone, with Schaub giving chase in vain.

The Dolphins (5-7) improved to 4-4 under interim coach Dan Campbell and ended a streak of five consecutive losses to the Ravens (4-8).

Warriors move to 22-0 by pulling away from Nets, 114-98

NEW YORK (AP)—Golden State's first game against the Nets went down to the wire, and the rematch seemed headed the same way.

With one of his electrifying flurries, Stephen Curry changed things in a hurry.

Curry scored 16 of his 28 points in the third quarter and the Warriors ran their NBA-record start to 22-0 by beating Brooklyn 114-98 on Sunday night.

Coming off consecutive 40-point games, Curry was having a relatively quiet and even puzzling night - he missed his first three free throws - before helping the Warriors regain control against a team that nearly beat them this season and looked capable of finishing the job this time.

"Just trying to see if I could get some room and figure out a way to impact the game," Curry said, "and things started to click."

They sure did, as Curry scored 11 points and threw a lob for Festus Ezeli's slam during a 15-4 run to close the third.

"That's what great players can do. Plus, he has a great team," Nets coach Lionel Hollins said. "He doesn't have to go out there and do it all the time. Last night he had 44. Two nights ago when they were in Charlotte he had 43. When he needs to he can and when he doesn't need to he takes a backseat to those guys."

Draymond Green added 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Klay Thompson scored 21 for the Warriors, who won their 26th in a row overall in the regular season, one behind the 2012-13 Miami Heat for the second-longest streak in NBA history.

Down 75-70 with 3:10 left in the third, the Warriors were soon ahead 96-85 early in the fourth.

"It's one of our biggest strengths, is that we're never out of a game and we're always one little run away from putting a game away," coach Luke Walton said.

The Warriors equaled another NBA record, tying the 1969-70 New York Knicks for the best road start at 12-0. They visit Indiana on Tuesday.

Thaddeus Young had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Brook Lopez scored 18 for the Nets, who had their four-game home winning streak snapped.

Lopez missed from point-blank range at the regulation buzzer on Nov. 14 and the Warriors beat the Nets in overtime at home. Walton said the Warriors let the Nets have too good a start in that one, when Brooklyn scored 36 points in the first quarter.

This time, Golden State bolted to a 9-0 lead and the only reason its 30-16 advantage after one wasn't bigger was because the Warriors were just 5 for 14 at the free throw line - with Curry missing all three.

But with a season-best 38 points on 78 percent shooting in the second period, the Nets trimmed it to 57-54 at halftime, then moved ahead in the third.

Ezeli had 12 points and Leandro Barbosa 11 off the bench.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, second from right, celebrates with teammates Andrew Bogut, left, and Draymond Green after Curry sunk a three-pointer during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Thunder 98, Kings 95

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had his third triple-double of the season with 19 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds and Oklahoma City rallied late to beat Sacramento.

Kevin Durant committed 10 turnovers but hit the go-ahead jumper with 23 seconds left and two free throws with 4.4 seconds left to cap a 20-point, nine-rebound outing for Oklahoma City.

The Thunder won their fourth straight home game. Since the franchise moved to Oklahoma City, it is 14-0 against Sacramento in Chesapeake Energy Arena and 23-4 overall.

NBA assists leader Rajon Rondo had 10 to go with seven points for the Kings. Rudy Gay scored 20 points for Sacramento, and the Kings missed a chance to force overtime when Marco Belinelli air balled on a 3-point attempt from the corner in the final seconds.

Grizzlies 95, Suns 93

In Memphis, Tenn., Jeff Green's dunk on an alley-oop inbound pass from Courtney Lee with 0.5 seconds left gave Memphis a victory over Phoenix.

The Suns' last chance to tie the game came on Eric Bledsoe's shot from the right corner. The two-point attempt was long, sending Phoenix to its fourth straight loss despite a late rally that pulled the Suns even.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 22 points. The inbound pass from Lee capped a fourth quarter in which he scored 13 of his 18 points. Mike Conley had 12 points and Mario Chalmers finished with 11. Green and Zach Randolph scored 10 points apiece.

Bledsoe led the Suns with 23 points and six assists and also had seven rebounds. Brandon Knight scored 17 points and Mirza Teletovic had 14. Alex Len had 12, while Jon Leuer finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Mavericks 116, Wizards 104

In Washington, Wesley Matthews scored 28 of his season-high 36 points in the second half and Dallas beat Washington.

He hit 10 3-pointers overall and eight in the second half. The Mavericks took the lead early in the third quarter and pulled away in the fourth.

John Wall led Washington with 28 points but injured his right leg colliding with Dallas' Jeremy Evans and was helped off the court with 1:14 left.

Dirk Nowitzki had 19 points and Raymond Felton added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Deron Williams helped with 11 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

The injury-plagued Wizards dressed just 10 players for the third time in eight days.

Pistons 111, Lakers 91

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 22 points, Andre Drummond added 18 points and 15 rebounds and Detroit beat Los Angeles in Kobe Bryant's last visit to Detroit.

Reggie Jackson added 20 points as the Pistons won their fourth straight.

Lou Williams scored 21 points and Julius Randle added 15 points and 11 rebounds as Los Angeles lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

Bryant received a standing ovation before the game, when the arena went dark while Pistons public address announcer John Mason read off his long list of achievements, graciously skipping the loss to Detroit in the 2004 Finals.

Bryant missed his first nine shots, and when he finally made one—a 3-pointer midway through the third quarter—the fans gave him his second ovation of the night and a brief "KO-BE" chant broke out.

Watson wins World Challenge by 3 shots

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Bubba Watson wasn't even planning to play in the Hero Challenge. He left no doubt Sunday who was going to win.

Watson quickly stretched his two-shot lead by making four birdies in seven holes. He was never seriously challenged, sailing home to a 6-under 66 for a three-shot victory over Patrick Reed at Albany Golf Club and a trophy from tournament host Tiger Woods.

Watson turned down his invitation a few months ago because he didn't have a passport for his newly adopted daughter, Dakota. But when PGA champion Jason Day backed out to stay home with his newborn daughter, Watson's wife was able to expedite all the right documents for the family to come over to the Bahamas.

He left with a $1 million payoff and a firm grasp on No. 4 in the world the rest of the year.

"I guess I've got to thank Jason Day for backing out. I have to thank the U.S. government and passport office for getting Dakota a passport so we could be here," Watson said. "For us, it's a good ride, a fun ride."

Even if it didn't feel easy to him, it sure looked that way.

Watson didn't make a bogey all weekend until the final hole, when he jokingly asked NBC field reporter Notah Begay how many shots he needed to win. He played it safe and made bogey, and all that cost him was the tournament record. Watson finished at 25-under 263, one shot from Jordan Spieth's record last year at Isleworth.

Reed also had a 66 to finish alone in second, moving him to No. 10 in the world for the first time. Rickie Fowler had a 64 to finish third.

Spieth tried to stay in range and was three shots behind until he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and never converted many chances after that. He ended his year with a 67, and walking up the 18th, he and caddie Michael Greller allowed for a quick reflection.

"Michael said, 'Hey, man, it's been an honor to be in the passenger seat, sitting shotgun for this ride. Thanks for everything,'" Spieth said. "I obviously thanked him. It's been a team effort this year, just as we always stress. But yeah, there was certainly a sigh of relief."

The Masters and U.S. Open champion strengthened his grip on No. 1 in the world, and headed off to a three-week vacation before going out to Maui for the first tournament of what figures to be a tough encore. First up: A trip to Augusta National this weekend to play with his father.

Watson's year is not finished. He was headed to New York on Sunday night to catch a flight to Asia for the Thailand Open.

The two-time Masters champion already had a two-week trip away from his family, and he didn't want to do that again. So when there was uncertainty about getting his daughter a passport for the Bahamas, he decided he would stay home this week and asked the tournament to let him know if anyone pulled out.

Day withdrew, Watson's wife spent eight hours in an Arizona office trying to get all the paperwork and they were on their way.

Watson seized control with seven birdies and an eagle on Saturday in ideal weather for a two-shot lead over Paul Casey, and he started fast with birdies on the second and third holes to keep his distance. No one got closer than two shots all day, and as Fowler made a move with a 30 on the front nine, Watson answered with two straight birdies to start the back nine, and then it was a matter of finishing.

Justin Rose, who lives at Albany and has lingered at the bottom of the leaderboard all week, set the course record with a 62.

For Watson, the next step is to be a more consistent winner. This was the ninth victory worldwide in his career, and the second straight year he has won multiple times.

Fast-pitch softball revival moving forward

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Efforts to revive fast-pitch softball moved forward yesterday with Tony Satur and Pina Magofna discussing plans with Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president Dr. Kurt Barnes on what needs to be done to reorganize the sport.

The CNMI was once a softball powerhouse in the region with Satur, CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee, even playing for Guam in the World Championships when the Commonwealth was still under the Trust Territory of the United States in the late '70s. Guam placed fourth.

Interest in fast-pitch softball waned over the years especially with an inactive association that could develop the sport at the grassroots level.

Barnes said Satur emailed him a couple of weeks ago to discuss the possibility of bringing back the sport that he loved and played a long time. Satur then invited Magofna, who is also a softball player, to attend the first meeting.

"We have no solid answers yet. But what we need is to have a solid group of committed people to sit down and plan everything on how to revive fast-pitch softball," said Barnes, who was involved in promoting various youth sports programs on Saipan for more than 40 years.

"The skill level is there, they could be world class players. Cecilia Lisua, who was also inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame, could hit like a man. Before, I also have a team of young girls from Oleai and their skill level too is pretty high," added Barnes.

JON PEREZ
A new fast-pitch softball association that wants to revive the sport and is looking at tapping the youth players in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization to help drum up interest.

The former Marianas High School teacher said the CNMI's softball players' skill level is already there. "It's just a matter of reviving interest and develop it, especially at the grassroots."

Magofna said that getting more people involve would make the plan of bringing back softball more concrete. "I know a number of people who want to help. All it needs is one person who will lead the group."

The three agreed that the new softball group should focus more with the youth especially those who are playing in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization.

"After MISO these girls have no other league to play in. It would be better if there's another league where they could develop more their skills, like a year-long thing," said Magofna.

"There are a lot of talented girls in the MISO program. They are not yet the best players but with proper training and guidance by the coaches, they could become some of the finest," added Satur, who was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Securing a field solely for training and playing fast-pitch softball and having certified umpires are the only concern of the three. The Capital Hill field was discussed as the facility that could be reserved if the plan would materialize.

"A field should always be available for fast-pitch softball. If we could secure and rebuild it, make it playable then we could see interest in fast-pitch softball going back. Capital Hill should be available since no tournament was played there for sometime," Satur said.

Barnes added that they won't face any problem with umpires since there are a number of certified persons who could call the shots, plus Tony Rogolifoi or Satur could also hold clinics to certify new ones.

TAN

From Page 28

the play and partially deflected the ball, changing its direction and giving goalie Josh Galarion room to pick up the leather for the save of the day.

Hinson and Galarion nearly collided in their attempts to prevent the ball from rolling down the net, while Chung hollered in frustration, as it was the second time he had the chance to score for MP United. Early in the second half, he got a pass from one of his teammates inside the penalty area and was momentarily left open, but his shot was way too high to the right.

After Chung's miss, MP United kept attacking, but Tan Holdings held strong on defense, kicking the ball out on many occasions.

Tan Holdings and MP United played the rubber last weekend as they ended up tied for the top spot after the two-round robin regular season. They held identical 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record with MP United forcing the playoff following a 1-0 win in the final regular season match last Nov. 21.

The rivals were in the same situation during the spring season this year as they posted identical 7-1-1 slates in the three-round regular season. Tan Holdings went on to win the deciding match, 2-1, with Fruit and Cosmos Kim scoring one goal apiece to end MP United's two-year reign in the division.

"Our boys pressured MP United all the way. They were told to do that after we lost last month. They were really frustrated as we needed only a draw to win the fall championship, but they had a lapse on defense and let Kennedy (Izuka) score," coach Jersh Angeles said.

Angeles was talking of Izuka's lob from the left field in the second half, as the latter had a clear shot against a disorganized Tan Holdings defense.

"After the loss, I told the boys to learn from that mistake and challenged them to play better defense the next time we play MP United. They had to stay with their man 100 percent of the time and put pressure on MP United's attackers. You saw that pressure when Alan challenged the shot of Kyle," Angeles added.

Meanwhile, Angeles said they are dedicating the fall championship to the late Se Young Kim, who played for the club in the spring season this year before passing away in Korea due to a vehicular accident. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CAROL

From Page 28

Carol went on to battle back from her knee strain, as she played in the consolation draw (west group) and won back-to-back games to make it to the quarterfinals. She swept Western Australia's Hayley O'Donnell, 6-1, 6-1, and South's Leonora Radocaj, 6-3, 6-1, to book a Round of 8 ticket. Carol will be facing New South Wales' Bojana Marinkov in the quarterfinals today.

The 13-year-old Lee is in Australia as part of the Pacific GSDF (Grand Slam Development Fund) Touring Team. He is joined in the Land Down under by fellow CNMI players Tania Tan, Ken Song, and Robbie Schorr and Tahiti's Jeremy Guines and Naia Guitton.

Tan dropped her opener against No. 3 seed Olivia Gadecki of Queensland, 1-6, 1-6, and also bowed to South Australia's Casey Tay, 1-6, 3-6, in the south consolation draw. Schorr and Song fell to their first round foes, too with the former absorbing a 1-6, 3-6 loss at the hands of No. 10 seed Sebastian Flock of South Australia. Song, on the other hand, was defeated by Victoria's Stefan Storch, 0-6, 1-6. Schorr and Song are scheduled to duel Terry Karahalios and Sam Whitehead, respectively, in the south consolation draw today.

The four CNMI players will also compete in the doubles events this week. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

'THE CRANK'

From Page 28

into perspective in relation to the longevity of my career and my health. Especially, with me about to become a daddy."

He told the *Saipan Tribune* that his match against Jones was his last under PXC since his contract also expired making him a free agent as a fighter at the moment. Now, he is looking to fight in other parts of Asia.

"I don't have a scheduled fight just yet. I left the last fight injury free. I will stay ready and ready to fight at any time. In my mind I would like to fight around March and get international fights," said Camacho.

"I would like to look into promotions [either] in Japan, Korea [or in] Asia. If PXC has anything lined up they will definitely run it by me," he added.

One Fighting Championship in Singapore, Universal Reality Combat Championship in the Philippines, Road FC in Korea, Super Fight League in India, and Dare in Thailand are some of the mixed martial arts promotional fights in Asia.

Japan has three top MMA events—Dream, Deep, and Shooto. Though Shooto is based in Japan it has also held fights in Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, and Tennessee in the United States, and Vancouver and British Columbia in Canada. China, Malaysia, and Taiwan also have their own MMA promotional events.

Hong Kong has Legend Fighting Championship, which also hold fights in Macau. In 2012, Legend FC signed an exclusive syndication agreement with ESPN International, which will serve as the sole distributor in broadcasting all of its content in Asia, Oceania, the Indian subcontinent, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

If Camacho gets the chance to fight in another MMA promotion or even the Ultimate Fighting Championship, which is his goal, he would do it in his original weight class of 170 lbs or welterweight.

"The plan is still the same. UFC! I'm riding on a three-fight win streak, which will hopefully put me in the light to make it to the bigger show. In the meantime I'll continue to get as much fights as I can, stay active and busy, and keep working toward my goals. I'll be moving up a weight class—my original weight class—of welterweight 170 lbs."

Camacho said he would take some time off, relax, and spend the holidays with his family after having fought four times this year.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	12	9	.571	—
Boston	11	9	.550	½
New York	10	11	.476	2
Brooklyn	5	15	.250	6½
Philadelphia	1	20	.048	11

Southeast Division

Miami	12	6	.667	—
Atlanta	13	9	.591	1
Charlotte	11	8	.579	1½
Orlando	11	9	.550	2
Washington	8	10	.444	4

Central Division

Cleveland	13	7	.650	—
Chicago	11	6	.647	½
Indiana	12	7	.632	½
Detroit	12	9	.571	1½
Milwaukee	8	13	.381	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
Memphis	12	9	.571	5
Dallas	12	9	.571	5
Houston	10	11	.476	7
New Orleans	5	15	.250	11½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	12	8	.600	—
Utah	9	9	.500	2
Portland	9	12	.429	3½
Minnesota	8	11	.421	3½
Denver	8	13	.381	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	22	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	11	9	.550	10
Phoenix	8	13	.381	13½
Sacramento	7	15	.318	15
L.A. Lakers	3	17	.150	18

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	375	247
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	295	248
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	296	278
Miami	5	7	0	.417	240	300

South

Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	259	305
Houston	6	6	0	.500	253	264
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	275	341
Tennessee	3	9	0	.250	245	296

North

Cincinnati	10	2	0	.833	334	196
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	311	240
Baltimore	4	8	0	.333	272	291
Cleveland	2	10	0	.167	216	347

West

Denver	10	2	0	.833	269	210
Kansas City	7	5	0	.583	321	240
Oakland	5	7	0	.417	284	314
San Diego	3	9	0	.250	247	324

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	5	6	0	.455	241	267
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	278	302
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	307	296
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	204	261

South

x-Carolina	12	0	0	1.000	373	243
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	271	298
Atlanta	6	6	0	.500	279	257
New Orleans	4	8	0	.333	299	380

North

Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	289	238
Minnesota	8	4	0	.667	238	232
Chicago	5	7	0	.417	251	290
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	253	315

West

Arizona	10	2	0	.833	382	232
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	305	229
St. Louis	4	8	0	.333	189	257
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	178	291

x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Little League opening is tentative

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Murig

Saipan Little League Board Inc. president A.J. Palacios Murig said that the opening of the 2016 season of the island's longest-running youth baseball program would all depend on how fast the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfields will be repaired.

The Saipan Little League is one of the main users of both ballfields with the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions being played at the Tan Ko baseball field, while the Majors (9-12 year olds) utilizes the Tan Ge softball field.

The lights of the Tan Ko baseball field are either broken or not aligned, while the Tan Ge softball field suffered major damage after Saipan was hit by several typhoons.

Northern Marianas Sports Association is still waiting for the funds, given as by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, from the Governor's Office to be released so repairs of all the damaged facilities inside the Oleai Sports Complex could start.

"We have met with [NMSA executive director] Tony Rogolifoi and he gave us a go, provided that we all assist in the preparation of the field," said Murig in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Murig added one of their main concerns is the Big League division, which holds night games at the Tan Ko baseball field every Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Saipan Baseball League plays nightly every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

But it remains unsure if the Tan Ko baseball field could already host a night game with the lights still not being repaired. That's why Murig said there's a possibility of not holding night games, especially in the Big League division.

"Game schedules will be amended from last season, mainly the Big League division. The board has agreed to call for a general membership assistance day to be scheduled to [help director] Rogolifoi and his [staff] prepare the field," added Murig.

With this scenario, Murig said that unless the lights at the Tan Ko field are repaired this weekend the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions will play one game each every Saturdays and Sundays. "All are subject to change depending on the number of teams in each division."

Murig said that they are facing the possibility of a longer season without the night games and the Big League division matches only played every weekend.

"[Rogolifoi] has informed us that the complex has been approved for funding repairs out of the CIP Office, but as to when those funds will become available we do not know."

"We are hoping it will come out soon as the repairs are greatly needed to resume the normal schedule of the Little League program," Murig ended.

Tudela leads Week 2 singles winners

Top-ranked Vincent Tudela was among the champions crowned in Week 2 of the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Tudela ruled the men's 4.0 singles after sweeping Steven Goodwin, 6-1, 6-2, in the finals last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court. Earlier last Saturday, Tudela worked hard for a 6-4, 4-6, 10-6 triumph against Martin Jambor in the semifinals to set up a title duel against Goodwin, who prevailed against fellow junior player Seung Jin Paik in the other Final Four pairing, 6-1, 6-2.

There are two other adults singles events played in the final week of the annual tournament with Raj Rai and Luke Beling joining Tudela on the champions list.

Rai took the men's over 40 singles crown after surviving Dong Min Lee in a super tiebreak finale, 6-2, 4-6, 10-3. Rai made it to the title match following his victories against Chan Whang Jang, 6-0, 6-1, and Guam's Sam Lai, 6-4, 5-7, 10-6. Lai arranged a semis date against Rai following a 6-2, 6-0 win against Gary Ramsey at the upper half of the draw. At the lower half of the draw, Lee notched a 6-0, 6-2 victory against Randy Steele and then beat Mihai Leta, 6-0, 6-0 to book the second finals ticket.

In the men's open singles, Beling eased his way to the championship after winning via walkover against Bobby Cruz, who could not make it to last Sunday's finale due to fatigue.

Cruz gassed out after enduring the longest match in the tournament—a more than three hour-semis showdown against CNMI national coach Jeff Race. Cruz dropped the extended opening set, 6-7 (3), but remained in contention following his victory in another closely fought second set, 7-5. In the deciding super tiebreaker third set, the two former members of the CNMI National Men's Team went back-and-forth with Cruz finally wrapping up the match with an 18-16 victory.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vincent Tudela serves to Martin Jambor during their semis game in the men's 4.0 singles event of the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

While Cruz labored for a finals berth in the men's open singles, Beling cruised to the title match following a 6-0, 6-0 win against Moris Villanueva in the upper bracket semifinals. Villanueva challenged Beling in the Final Four after eliminating Dylan Ackerman, 6-1, 6-2.

Beling and the other singles champions and finalists in the Tan Holdings tournament were awarded plaques during last Sunday's banquet at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort.

Meanwhile, results in the adults doubles events will be reported later this week. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Jokers StraightBlackBall celebrate their close 7-6 win over the Jonny's Crazy 8 in the Budweiser Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League last week.

Alamo, Voyagers still on top of respective billiards leagues

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

National Alamo Car Rental and the Jokers IT&E Voyagers remain on top of their respective billiards leagues in the Budweiser and Saipan Billiards Association-organized 8-ball events held in different bars last week.

Alamo edged the Jokers Homeboyz, 7-6, to hold a slim lead over their opponents in the Thursday leagues' six-team field. The former hiked their record to 32-20, one win ahead of the Homeboyz's 31-21 slate.

The pairs of Boyet Sequioco and Rey Hermogenes and Manny Mariano and Rodel Dela Cruz swept each of their Partners 8-Ball matches against the Homeboyz tandems of Nolan Cultura and Cesar Sangalang, and Rick Elefante and George Lizardo.

Hermogenes, Roman Rodriguez, Rodel Dela Cruz, and Mariano gave Alamo a quick 4-0 lead after scoring wins against Jeff Garcia, Elefante, Lizardo, and Sangalang, respectively, in Singles 8-Ball play.

The Homeboyz bounced back in Partners 8-Ball and the three contests in the second set of Singles events to take a 5-4 lead entering the last four games of their Thursday match up against the Alamo.

That was, however, short lived as team captain Sequioco and company won three of the last four matches to snatch the win.

In other Thursday League contests, the Jokers WildBoyz and the Wild Bill's Wild Wild West completed similar 8-5 decision against the Wild Bill's Rack 'N' Roll and Jonny's Team SCS.

In the Tuesday League, the Voyagers (39-26) enjoy a two-win edge over sister squad Destroyers (37-28) after an 8-5 win in their match up.

The Jokers Docomo Hustlers are also close behind at 36-29 following a 7-6 decision over the Jonny's Titans (26-39), while the Jokers Straight-BlackBall (29-36) also eked out a 7-6 win over the Jonny's Crazy 8 (28-37).

Action continues tonight in the Tuesday League with the Destroyers facing the Crazy 8 and the Hustlers clashing with the Voyagers while the Titans host the StraightBlackBall.

On Thursday, The Homeboyz will be visiting the Wild Wild West while the WildBoyz host Team SCS. The Rack 'N' Roll will try to test their mettle against top ranked Alamo.

Newton keeps Panthers perfect with 41-38 win over Saints

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Sports

Tudela leads Week 2 singles winners

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Tan Holdings earns boys U18 title

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tan Holdings FC players, coach Jersh Angeles, third from left front row, and club president Eli Arago, standing right, pose with their boys U18 fall championship trophy after beating MP United FC in a rubber match, 1-0, in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tan Holdings Football Club delivered in another rubber match against rival MP United FC, pulling off a 1-0 victory in the boys U18 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Joel Fruit scored the lone goal in the title-deciding game off a penalty kick in the 32nd minute. The Tan Holdings captain took the PK after Junsik Kim was fouled by MP United's Bada Lee. Fruit went for a quick release, giving MP United goalie Chris Aninzo little time to react as the ball rolled past through the center and into the back of the net.

After Fruit's goal, MP United made repeated attempts to tie the count in the second half, but failed. The closest opportunity came under the 10-minute mark of the match with Sunjoon Tenorio chasing the ball down the right field inside the penalty area and ahead of Tan Holdings defenders. Tenorio could have taken the shot, but the angle was a bit tough, so he decided to pass the ball to Kyle Chung who was surging to the center. Chung kicked the ball, which had a good line, as it was rolling straight, but Alan Hinson stepped into

See TAN on Page 26

Tough luck for Carol

The CNMI's Carol Lee was poised for an upset against her seeded foe in the 2015 14/U Australian Championships before an injury forced her to retire in the first round match last Saturday at the Melbourne Park.

Lee challenged No. 2-ranked Madison Bishop of South Australia in the 64-player main draw and was one point away from completing a come-from-behind win when a knee strain prevented the former from finishing the match. She was up, 5-3, and serving in the third set when the game was halted because she couldn't continue to play.

Before the tough break, the Commonwealth bet came from a 6-4 victory in the second set, making up for an opening set loss to Bishop in similar fashion.

Carol's father, Dong Min, said his daughter was really upset she did not finish the game and missed the win.

"However, I told her not to think much about winning and focus on her recovery. Her health is more important," Dong Min said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Sunday.

See CAROL on Page 26

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
The CNMI's Carol Lee makes a return to South Australia's Madison Bishop during their first round match in the 2015 14/U Australian Championships last Saturday at the Melbourne Park.

'The Crank' wants to break into Asia fight scene

FACEBOOK
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, trains at a local gym in Guam before his fight against Tyrone "Bones" Jones. Camacho will be moving up to his original weight of 170 lbs or as a welterweight for his first fight in 2016.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is aiming to bring his skills in Asia where he plans to test the waters of other mixed martial arts events either in Japan, Korea, or any other promotional fight in Asia.

Camacho is fresh from a second-round technical knockout win over Tyrone "Bones" Jones in last Friday night's Pacific Xtreme Combat 50 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse. He and his opponent were fighting for the vacant PXC lightweight belt.

However, Camacho was disqualified even before the opening bell rang in his five-round bout against Jones. He was 3.9 lbs over the 155 lb weight limit to become ineligible to win the vacant title.

"It was a great win for me against a tough opponent. It is a bittersweet [win]. But the result is needed for the future of my career. I'm still learning as a competitor, martial artist, and an athlete," said Camacho in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"The entire process of this fight was a great life learning experience. The weigh-in was a rough weight cut for me. I truly learned more about myself with the adversity I had to overcome being so weak to fighting a five-minute round against Tyrone," he added.

"It was a great learning experience and it put a lot of things

See 'THE CRANK' on Page 26